

Memorandum to: Chairs of District School Boards
Directors of Education
School Authorities

From: Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister of Education

Subject: Education Sector Eligibility for Emergency Child Care

Thank you for your continued support for students, families and staff during this challenging and uncertain time. We are encouraged by the efforts that have been made to accommodate students as they engage in remote learning.

On Saturday, January 9, 2021 the Minister of Education announced an extension of and expanded eligibility for emergency child care to support front-line workers. The duration of the program has been extended to align with the period of time for which elementary schools in southern Ontario will be closed for remote learning. Expanded eligibility will offer support to a broader range of individuals providing critical services, including people who assist vulnerable communities, emergency response and law enforcement sector staff, more health and safety workers, and certain federal employees.

In addition, in recognition of the supports required for individuals supporting students with special needs with in-person instruction, and based on feedback from education sector partners, eligibility has been expanded to include the following:

- A staff member of a school as defined in the *Education Act* who provides in-person instruction at a school to pupils with special education needs who cannot be accommodated through remote learning.
- A staff member of a school as defined in the *Education Act* who supports in-person instruction at a school to pupils with special education needs who cannot be accommodated through remote learning, such as instructional support, custodial, administration staff and other staff that ensure school settings are sanitary and safe for staff and students

Those who are eligible for this program and are in need of this support can contact their regional Consolidated Service System Manager (CMSM) or District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB). Contact information can be found [HERE](#).

The Ministry will continue to monitor the operation of this program and provide updates on any changes to eligibility, as the circumstance evolves.

Thank you for the ongoing partnership as we have worked to keep schools safe and contribute to stopping the province-wide spread of COVID-19 during this time.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister