

From: Holcombe, Rebecca [Rebecca.Holcombe@vermont.gov]
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2016 9:19 PM
To: Pepper, James
Subject: Re: Memo to Supts and BusMgrs regarding preK SDC
Attachments: Draft SDC memo to supt busmgr version 2000.docx; Draft SDC memo to supt busmgr version 2000.docx

this is how we revised it.

Rebecca Holcombe, Secretary of Education
Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641
(802) 479-1060
Rebecca.Holcombe@vermont.gov

From: Pepper, James
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2016 9:11:57 PM
To: Holcombe, Rebecca
Subject: Fwd: Memo to Supts and BusMgrs regarding preK SDC

Here are the notes from dcf. I agree with them. Let me know if you don't.

James Pepper
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
802-279-1086 (c)
802-828-6403 (o)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wisdom, Leslie" <Leslie.Wisdom@vermont.gov>
Date: November 10, 2016 at 5:19:57 PM EST
To: "Pepper, James" <James.Pepper@vermont.gov>
Cc: "Schatz, Ken" <Ken.Schatz@vermont.gov>, "Murphy, Reevea" <Reeva.Murphy@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Memo to Supts and BusMgrs regarding preK SDC

Hi Pepper,

Please see attached comments from DCF. Sorry for the delay in responding. Ken was not available most of the day and we are just now seeing your email. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Leslie

Leslie Wisdom
General Counsel
Department for Children and Families
tel. 802.241.0944
mobile 802.585.4852

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From: Schatz, Ken
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2016 4:12 PM
To: Wisdom, Leslie <Leslie.Wisdom@vermont.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Memo to Supts and BusMgrs regarding preK SDC

FYI - just this now, haven't read.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Pepper, James" <James.Pepper@vermont.gov>
Date: November 10, 2016 at 1:46:59 PM EST
To: "Schatz, Ken" <Ken.Schatz@vermont.gov>, "Murphy, Reeva" <Reeva.Murphy@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: Memo to Supts and BusMgrs regarding preK SDC

Ken and Reeva – Rebecca wants this to go out today to superintendents.
Will you take a look and get back to me asap if you have concerns.

From: Holcombe, Rebecca
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2016 1:21 PM
To: Pepper, James <James.Pepper@vermont.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Memo to Supts and BusMgrs regarding preK SDC

This is going out today

This guidance is for superintendents and business managers to clarify how we will achieve an accurate count for establishing the tax rate. At the same time, we also want to ensure that all eligible preK students are able to access their entitlement under Act 166. I understand that what follows will place additional burdens on Supervisory Union/District staff than is normally expected and we are grateful for your help.

AOE has received authorization from the Governor's Office to have a secondary data collection (SDC) to collect data for those preK students attending a prequalified program at provider who had not fulfilled all appropriate background checks as of the end of the 20-day census period this fall. The purpose of the SDC is to collect data for those preK students in programs you expect to clear all appropriate background checks as Friday, January 13, 2017, two months from today.

This SDC will be sent out on Monday, November 14. It will be due back to AOE no later than 4:30 Friday, November 18. The SDC will be pre-populated with all preK students entered in the official 20-day census, including EEE students. These data are for your reference and are to help prevent duplication of students. AOE will be checking the SDC data for accuracy and duplicate students.

The SDC is designed to capture all possible preK students for potential inclusion in the FY2018 equalized pupil calculation. A third confirmation collection will go out on Monday, January 16, 2017 and will be due no later than 4:30 Friday, January 20, 2017. This confirmation collection will be populated with the preK students from the SDC and ask you to confirm which were in preK programs that had passed all appropriate background checks as of Friday, January 13, 2017.

Once the data have been checked for duplicates and accuracy, AOE will calculate final equalized pupil counts for FY2018. Accepted preK counts will be appended to the business manager tuition census. AOE will count both the SDC preK counts in cleared programs and the fall census preK students as one ADM (i.e., as if they were in the fall census for the full 20-days).

After a provider clears the appropriate background checks, regardless of when that occurs, the provider is eligible for public funding for the 10 hours per week over 35 weeks. Payment from a school district to a provider is between those two organizations, with AOE having no role. However, the AOE did offer some flexibility for you to work with providers to ensure families can access this entitlement. The AOE's position is:

1. Secretary Holcombe's September 14, 2016 transition relief memo allows for three additional options for Supervisory Unions/Districts who had contracts with providers who were not cleared in time:
 - a. the school district and provider can agree to provide 10 hours of preK education for 35 weeks which extends past the end of the school year;
 - b. the school district and provider can agree to work 350 hours of preK education into the remaining weeks of the school year; or

- c. if neither A nor B is feasible, the school district and provider can agree to provide 10 hours of preK education per week for the remainder of the school year, prorating the tuition per ADM accordingly.
2. Since that transition memo, we have heard from superintendents who re-negotiated terms of contracts to stipulate that providers would be retroactively paid if full clearance was obtained but would not if the program didn't clear. If this is the understanding you have with your local partners, of course Superintendents are able to retroactively pay the provider from the first day of school so that the 10 hours per week for the full 35 weeks coincides with the school year.
3. For those preK students who were in a prequalified preK program but were not enrolled through the school district at the beginning of the school year and were subsequently enrolled through the district by the parents, payments begin as of the enrollment date with the tuition being prorated for the remainder of the school year.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

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