

From: Dover, Haley [Haley.Dover@vermont.gov]

Sent: Friday, September 16, 2016 1:43 PM

To: Pepper, James

CC: Allen, Susan

Subject: Updated Statement

Hi James,

Updated statement is below. So far only media call is Digger.

Statement:

Our first obligation is to keep our children safe. Our next is to support their wellbeing and learning. To honor the child safety intent of Act 1, 16 V.S.A. §§ 252 and 255, and new federal background check requirements for childcares, the Agency of Human Services, Child Development Division (CDD), Department of Public Safety, law enforcement partners from around the state, childcare providers and school administrators have been working collaboratively to ensure that prekindergarten employees-- both public and private-- complete a fingerprint-supported background check.

In many parts of the state, PK has begun seamlessly. In some parts of the state, providers are presently going through the fingerprint-supported background check process. To ensure that all eligible children who want to participate in PK can participate under Act 166, the recent transition memo expands options to increase flexibility. Our goal is to ensure every child can participate in the full amount of state funded PK this year, if that is the family's preference, even if the start of the year is slightly delayed. The memo lays out steps taken by the state to facilitate the fingerprinting process, as well as additional options school districts have to support access to PK for their children.

Haley Dover, Agency of Education – Public Information Officer

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