

Dear State Funded programs,

On Thursday, September 28, 2017 Governor Malloy issued Administration Issues Guidance to School Districts Regarding Enrollment of Displaced Children from Puerto Rico. Below you will find guidance from the OEC for both licensed and public school-based programs with information of particular relevance highlighted in yellow. There is also special guidance for programs that receive Child Day Care funding.

Please see below for guidance from the OEC for licensed child care programs:

In regards to the health record, the following language exists in the child care center/group child care home licensing regulations:

The physical examination requirements of section 19a-59-5a (a)(2)(B) shall be waived when such examination is contrary to the religious beliefs and practices of the child or the parent(s) of such child, or when a child has been displaced from their place of residence due to a declared state of emergency by a state or federal official who has the authority to make such declaration, and existing physical examination records are inaccessible for a period not to exceed six (6) months, unless an extension is approved by the department. A statement requesting such waiver shall be submitted and shall be maintained in the child's health record. Such statement shall be signed by the parent(s). The parent(s) shall certify that he or she accepts complete responsibility for the health of the child and that, to the best of the parent's knowledge, the child is in good health.

In regards to the immunization records, the following documentation satisfies the immunization requirements for licensed child care center/group child care homes:

a written statement from the child's parent(s) that the child has been displaced from their place of residence due to a declared state of emergency by a state or federal official who has the authority to make such declaration, and existing immunization records are inaccessible and the child is current with their immunizations, or a statement signed and dated by a physician, physician assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse indicating that the child has an appointment that shall keep the immunizations current or in progress as required by said schedule.

**Please see below for guidance specific to OEC Child Day Care programs**

Child Day Care programs will temporarily be allowed to waive the requirement for a birth certificate for enrollment for any child has been displaced from their place of residence due to a declared state of emergency by a state or federal official who has the authority to make such declaration.

**Please see below for guidance for OEC funded programs in schools that are in public schools:**

Governor Dannel P. Malloy and State Department of Education Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell ...announced that they are sending guidance to every school superintendent in the state outlining suggested protocols to ensure that any student arriving from Puerto Rico, or any affected storm area, has immediate access to school and expedited connections to the services they may need. Some of the guidance includes:

- District personnel should be counseled to enroll these displaced students immediately, as required by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

- These students will also automatically qualify to receive free school meals and must also be provided with health and other related services necessary to ensure their academic success.

- Per established procedures, all students experiencing homelessness must be accurately reported in the statewide public school information system (PSIS).

Additional guidance for program located in public school is available through local superintendents.

The OEC provides this guidance in an effort to assist programs to enroll children efficiently and appropriately. For additional guidance please contact the Office of Early Childhood's Division of Early Care and Education at 860-500-4430.

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Division of Early Care and Education  
CT Office of Early Childhood