



School-age Care for Children of Families Working in Critical Sectors

Care for children of critical sector workers has been crucial for the state's frontline workers to confront the COVID-19 pandemic. As such the Administration continues to encourage schools, child care, and all child and youth programming to prioritize critical sector families in their enrollment. However, nothing prevents care and programming to be provided to children outside of critical sectors as long as public health guidance is followed.

The school-age care for children of critical workers is intended for extreme circumstances in which no parent or guardian is at home, due to employment as a critical worker. If it is a two-parent household and one is not a critical worker, a school is not required to provide free school-age care to the family, but the school could choose to provide the care, if they have the capacity to do so while ensuring health and safety requirements can still be met.

This school-age care must be provided for school-age children age 12 and under who are children of critical workers in Tier I of the critical worker list (See Appendix B for definitions). Children of Tier I workers only will be cared for at no cost during the typical school hours. As was required in the spring, school districts and charter schools must provide transportation for students participating in school-age care for children of critical workers, in accordance with their local student transportation requirements.

Contact your child's school for additional information about school-age care. Families seeking child care should visit mn.gov/childcare for a map of licensed providers with current openings for critical sector workers or call 1-888-291-9811 for more information.

School districts, summer programs, and child care programs (including certified and licensed centers and licensed family child care programs) are highly encouraged to plan, advertise and implement options that prioritize the enrollment of children of families in Tier 1.

- Healthcare and public health
- Law enforcement, public safety and first responders
- Food and agriculture
- Judicial Branch (essential services)
- National Guard
- Educators
- School staff caring for children of any critical worker
- Child care providers caring for children of any critical worker