

DCYF Spring School-Age Incentive Overview

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) will offer a one-time incentive payment to licensed school-age providers serving school-age children accessing subsidy.

Who is Eligible?

Any licensed child care provider in Washington State who has provided care to school-age children receiving subsidy in February, March, and April 2021 and who claims a subsidy payment by June 30, 2021.

How Will I Be Paid?

DCYF will crosswalk the provider's base school-age subsidy rate with the regional preschool subsidy rate to issue a one-time "difference" payment for February, March, and April 2021. If you are an Early Achievers participant who receives tiered reimbursement (TR) for school-age children, this will include a "difference" amount for TR.

Incentive payments will be processed through the Social Service Payment System (SSPS). Payments will be provided in the same way a provider currently receives subsidy payments:

- Via U.S. Postal Service to the address associated with the SSPS number; or
- Via electronic deposit into the bank account if already established in SSPS. (Please note that if you do not already have direct deposit with SSPS, you will not have time to establish direct deposit for this incentive, and you will receive the incentive by mail.)

Timeline

- Mid-April – Communication to providers
- Early May – Additional communication to providers
- Mid-June – First payments released for providers that claim by May 31
- Mid-July – Final payments released for providers that claim after May 31 and by June 30

Example Difference Payment

The school-age rate incentive is calculated using the number of units the provider is eligible to be paid and multiplying by the difference of the preschool rate and the provider's school-age rate. This rate is then multiplied by the provider's tiered reimbursement rate to determine the incentive. This calculation is made for each child per month and combined into one payment per provider per month.

Example:

Provider in Region 2 claimed payment for 22 full-day units for a school-age child in March, and payment was made based on 22 full-day units. The provider's school-age rate is \$29.41 per full-day unit. Region 2 preschool rate is \$30.86 per full-day unit. This child's incentive base payment is \$31.90. If the provider is rated at Early Achievers level 3 or 3+, this is multiplied by 12% to add \$3.83.

$$22 \times (\$30.86 - \$29.41) = \$31.90$$

$$\$31.90 \times 12\% = \$3.83$$

Total incentive for this child is: $\$31.90 + \$3.83 = \mathbf{\$35.73}$

Who Can I Contact with Questions?

DCYF has dedicated staff available to answer questions. Please email dcyf.covidgrantinfo@dcyf.wa.gov with questions.