

**NC PRE-K  
SITE LEVEL STAFF FLEXIBILITIES AND  
PAYMENT POLICY**

Effect 2022-2023 program year.

# **SITE LEVEL STAFF FLEXIBILITIES**

## **Long-term Substitute Teachers**

- While the expectation from DCDEE is that all sites will work to secure qualified lead teachers and teacher assistants, we recognize the impact that COVID-19 has had on the ability for programs to hire and/or maintain qualified staff. Therefore, for the 2022-2023 program year, DCDEE will continue to offer flexibility to programs by waiving the 12-week limitation for long-term substitutes serving in NC Pre-K classrooms.
- In addition, for the 2022-2023 program year, NC Pre-K Contracting Agencies will not be required to assign a lower per-child rate for classrooms who must hire long-term substitute lead teachers. NC Pre-K Contracting Agencies may reimburse classrooms at a higher “approved lead teacher” rate as long as funds are available within their Direct Service allocations. NC Pre-K Contracting Agencies should contact their NC Pre-K Program Policy Consultant for assistance with entering rates in NC Pre-K Plan, if needed.

**INTERIM SITE ADMINISTRATORS  
\*NEW FLEXIBILITY FOR 2022-2023\***

While the expectation from DCDEE is that all sites will work to secure qualified Site Administrators, we recognize the impact that COVID-19 has had on the ability for programs to hire and/or maintain qualified staff. Therefore, for the 2022-2023 program year, DCDEE will offer flexibility to programs by waiving the 12-week limitation for Interim Site Administrators serving at NC Pre-K sites.

## PAYMENT POLICY PAYMENTS \*REVISED FOR 2022-2023\*

- For the 2022-2023 program year, DCDEE will provide payments based on the traditional “per-child”, attendance-based model as summarized below and detailed in the NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance. (See Section 4: The NC Pre-K Site – Subsection C. Program Attendance Policy)
  
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- 100% reimbursement will be provided when a child attends
  - o 10 days or 50% of the operating days during the month, or
  - o at least one day during the first and last month of classroom operation, or
  - o at least one day during the child's first month of enrollment
- 50% reimbursement will be provided when a child attends between 25% - 50% of the operating days during the month
- 0% reimbursement will be provided when a child attends less than 25% of the operating days during the month
- 0% reimbursement will be provided when a slot is unfilled

## COVID-19 ATTENDANCE EXCEPTIONS \*REVISED FOR 2022-2023\*

Per-child reimbursement rates will not be reduced if:

- A NC Pre-K classroom/site is required to close due to COVID-19 exposure or positive cases, or
- A child is unable to attend for an extended amount of days due to the child being sick and/or quarantined due to COVID-19

## NOTE:

- NC Pre-K teachers are required to provide remote learning services to children until in-person instruction can resume.
- NC Pre-K programs must communicate with their NC Pre-K Contracting Agency to request a COVID-19 attendance exception. Contracting Agencies will be responsible for verifying remote learning services are provided in accordance with the guidance above in Section 7 and documenting attendance exceptions in the NC Pre-K KIDS database system.

## PLEASE NOTE:

DCDEE is currently working to finalize the 2022-2023 Additional Guidance for NC Pre-K Programs document which will apply to all NC Pre-K Providers – regardless of whether they are located in public schools or nonpublic/private sites and will provide information on the following:

Health & Safety Guidance, Program Year, Site Level Staff Flexibilities, Mode of Instruction, Circumstances When Remote Learning May Be Needed, Remote Learning Requirements, Teaching Strategies Resources, Payment Policy, LETRS Training, Child Care Rule .3013, Session Law 117, Legislative Rate Increases for Private Sites