



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

August 20, 2020

The Honorable Justin Ready
James Senate Office Building, Room 315
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Susan Krebs
House Office Building, Room 203
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable April Rose
House Office Building, Room 320
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Haven Shoemaker
House Office Building, Room 320
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Ready and Delegates Krebs, Rose, and Shoemaker,

Thank you for your letter on August 15, 2020 regarding increasing child care center capacity. I am pleased that in Carroll County 83% of licensed child care facilities have reopened. This is a tremendous increase from 48% in April. The regional licensing office in Carroll County will continue to work with child care providers to support their reopening. We are providing reopening grants of \$800 to family child care providers and \$1,600 to center-based programs to help with the costs of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), cleaning and disinfecting. I am hopeful that over the next few months Carroll County can return to its supply of child care providers prior to the pandemic.

Currently, child care providers are limited to no more than 15 persons in a room. Licensing regulations require 1 teacher to 10 students for three- and four-year-olds, but we are temporarily allowing a ratio of 1 teacher to 14 students for this age group. For school age students, aged five-years-old and above, ratios are normally 1 teacher to 15 students but currently this would be 1 teacher to 14 students with the room capacity limit of 15 persons per room.

Family child care providers are not impacted by the current capacity restrictions and are consistent with COMAR. Center-based programs continue to be limited for health reasons to 14 students for 3- and four-year-olds, instead of 20. There is not a limit to the number of groups providers may have in a school program as long as there are no more than 15 persons in each room.

We continue to coordinate with the Maryland Health Department in looking at child care capacity to see if those limits are appropriate to change. The health and safety of children remains our highest priority during this pandemic.

Best Regards,

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools