

Subsidized Child Care Assistance Changes to Program Policy: Blended Rates and Provider Closings with Pay

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Produced by the DCDEE Team

These policies will take effect as NC FAST is rolled out across the state, when a county makes its first payments through NC FAST. (The policies will not be in effect until then.)

Blended Rates and Provider Closings with Pay

Blended Rates Policy

- Eligible providers will be paid blended rates when they care for preschool and school-age children who qualify for blended rates
- Blended rates will take into account school year care, summer/trackout care, and up to...
 - ◊ 15 school holidays
 - ◊ 10 teacher work days
 - ◊ 15 inclement weather days
- A provider will be paid a blended rate for a child that attends the provider year-round...
 - ◊ Either *Before School*, *After School*, or *Before and After School* during the school year
 - ◊ Fulltime during *Summer/Trackout*
 - ◊ And during at least one of the following types of school closure days: Inclement Weather Days, Teacher Workdays, or Holidays

Blended Rates Procedures

- As providers enroll in the NC FAST Provider Portal, they will provide up to five rates for school age children, including *School Age* (representing fulltime care year round), *Summer/Trackout* (representing fulltime care during just summer/trackout), *Before School*, *After School*, and *Before and After School*
- For *Before School*, *After School*, and *Before and After School*, providers will provide rates as follows:
 - ◊ If they **do** care for any school age children as described above (under Blended Rates Policy), they will enter blended rates
 - ◊ If they **do not** care for any school age children as described above (under Blended Rates Policy), they will enter regular (non-blended) rates
- Providers will calculate their private pay blended rates based upon their individual circumstances

Provider Closings with Pay

- As a result of the implementation of NC FAST, a Subsidized Child Care Assistance Program policy change is being made to how facility closings (vacation, emergency, and inclement weather) are managed
- Providers may choose 15 days per calendar year for automatic approval for holidays and vacation days—NC FAST will pay the first 15 days
- The limit for inclement weather and emergency closings will be up to five calendar days per month—these closings must be approved by the LPA
- In the Provider Portal, providers will not have to list their closure days during enrollment/re-enrollment; instead, they will indicate closings on their attendance rosters