



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Board of Department of Early Education and Care
51 Sleeper Street
Boston, MA 02210

August 11, 2020

Dear Board of Department of Early Education and Care,

Thank you for your work through the COVID-19 pandemic. The Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs would like to commend Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy for her leadership during this crisis. We appreciate the frequent town halls and her openness to communicate with the field this summer. As we look towards the fall our programs will face their biggest challenge yet, both logistically and financially. We are four weeks away or less from the start of the school year in the majority of districts. Our YMCAs are the largest provider of out of school time programming in the state and currently are being asked by all of their districts to work with their remote students. As such, we need EEC to act quickly to:

1. Release the new group size/ratio guidance this week so programs have adequate time to plan for September. The majority of Ys have waitlists that have hundreds of school age children on them, we need to be able to give parents peace of mind and tell them their child has space in our programs
2. Align the upcoming guidance with any guidance being released from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
3. Begin to license new space for out of school time programs. New spaces need to be licensed now. It takes time to get the licensing process in order and the current moratorium on licensing new space means our programs cannot meet the needs of the school districts.
4. Interpret the new CCDF guidelines so that out of school time programs are paid the full day subsidized rate when children are in their care for remote schooling

We know that the Department of Early Education and Care is working to get this all done, but there is a tremendous urgency needed. Every day these four items are delayed is a day that a program cannot open and a parent opts out of the job market because they cannot find care for their child or even worse, that child will be left in an unsafe environment.

Thank you,

Kate-Marie Roycroft
Director of Government Affairs & Social Responsibility