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Policy Title: Center-Based Child Care Financial Assistance Reimbursement Rates for Fiscal Year 2026

Policy Number: CCFA-26-02

Release Date: March 4, 2026

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

OVERVIEW

Through the state's Fiscal Year 2025 Fair Share Surplus Supplemental Budget, $20 million was provided to increase reimbursement rates in Fiscal Year 2026 for center-based and family child care providers who care for children whose families receive state Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFA). The Board of Early Education and Care (EEC) has approved a rate increase plan that includes a cost-of-living adjustment for all rates as well as additional targeted adjustments to specific rates by region and age group to make progress on inequities in rate amounts, based on the cost of providing care while still also considering the market (tuition prices).

EEC will be updating CCFA rates for center-based early education and care providers on April 1, 2026. This rate increase will be retroactive to July 1, 2025, which means the rate increase will be applied to services provided on or after July 1, 2025. Center-based providers will receive a one-time payment in April to account for retroactive rate increases.

Please note that billing will be processed as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience as EEC implements these rate increases.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all center-based early education and care providers who accept state Child Care Financial Assistance.

KEY UPDATES

Key changes to EEC's center-based reimbursement rates include:

- A 0.5% cost-of-living adjustment to all center-based rates;
- An additional targeted increase to the preschool rates in the Northeast and Western, Central, and Southeast regions, where rates are farthest from the cost of care; and
- An additional targeted increase to the toddler rate in the Northeast region to bring it closer to median tuition prices.

RESOURCES

For more information, you may find the rate chart or answers to commonly asked questions here.

If you or your staff have questions about this policy or need additional support, please contact eecsubsidymanagement@mass.gov.

OBSOLETE

The Fiscal Year 2026 rates replace the agency's rates from Fiscal Year 2025.