

Considerations for Adding School-Age Enrollment



Many School Districts are implementing online learning this fall & more parents are needing care for their elementary age children

We acknowledge that you, as a licensed child-care professional, may be impacted by these plans. For one, schools will be offering either part week attendance or all remote learning schedules, which will result in more parents needing care for their elementary age children. Please read on for practical guidance, suggestions and resource links that will support you in planning for how you might accommodate and tap into this increased need!

Check out our quick guide to help with your decision making including:

- What to consider first.
- What will my licensor require?
- How might my space need to change?
- What about expectations around supporting online learning?
- What to expect from “new to child care” school-agers?

Alongside any challenge lies an opportunity!

The challenge of taking on expanded enrollment of full or part day school-age children provides the opportunity to increase income AND be a “life line” to the families seeking quality child care in your local communities. Let us know how we can help further!



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1 What to consider first:

- What might be the need in my community? Have I checked on local school district fall plans?
- Do my current families have school-age siblings that might need care?
- Do I have slots currently available to fill or might I want to expand and open or repurpose additional space?
- What ages am I willing to enroll? K-3, K-5, etc.
- Am I open to accepting part day or part week care to school-age children? This flexibility can be a “selling” point to parents.
- Do I have a “one pager” explaining all the steps I am taking to keep children safe and well? This could reassure prospective parents and encourage enrollment in your program; post on your webpage or social media.
- What kind of school-age supports am I willing and able to provide? Minimal accommodations for technology needs; some schoolwork help; tutoring level support.
- Is my internet connection sufficient to support online learning?
- Do I have access to school-age curricular materials, activities, supplies?

2 What will my licensor require?

- Unless you are opening a “school-age only” space or new facility, requirements are very minimal. It could simply be a call to your licensor and submitting information. Please contact your licensor for specifics.
- Emergency Waivers: you may be able to increase your capacity using this process/form; for example, Family Child Care enrolling school age siblings.

3 How might my space need to change?

- Do I have dedicated areas where children can do their online learning and assignments at certain times of the day; do I have adequate furniture, electrical outlets?
- Are rooms repurposed and set up for school-age children; what might these costs be? One local center said they spent around \$5,000 to equip a room for school-age care.
- Additional supplies, materials, activities that are geared towards school-age children; families might be able to donate items; secondhand stores are a great resource.

4 What about expectations around supporting online learning?

- It will be important to have conversations with parents about school expectations, what their hopes for support are and what you are willing to accommodate.
- Get information about wi-fi needs; online learning schedule; individual children’s ability to manage independently; contact for teacher.

5 What to expect from “new to child care” school-agers?

- Many have longer attention spans and will be able to handle more complicated projects and tasks.
- Many engage in independent reading and writing. They also enjoy space to write/draw stories, journal, and write letters.
- Physical activity will be important and children will need time to burn off energy.
- They love choices within a structure and are more independent and self-directed.
- Many school-age children show an improved ability to maintain emotional stability, demonstrate self-control, label their feelings, and use self-calming strategies.