

REACH

a monthly e-newsletter for Delaware's early childhood and school age programs



NOVEMBER 2020



You're here for Delaware's children and families.

We're here for YOU!



Website Resources & Updates

Delaware's Child Care and COVID -19 Site

<https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/child-care/phase-2/>

DIEEC COVID-19 Resource Page

<https://bit.ly/34WSTkx>

Blueprint for Reopening DE Early Care and Education Safely Page

<https://www.delawarestars.udel.edu/blueprint-for-reopening/>

EVERYDAY HEROES

PROGRAMS RESPOND TO PANDEMIC WITH BIG IMPACT



VA Wilmington VA Medical Center
Yesterday at 6:00 PM · 🌐

It's the overwhelming community support that keeps us going and motivated. From donated meals, face coverings, to personalized Thank You Notes like this from the awesome kids and staff at **The Wright Choice Child Care Carmen Wright**, we all truly appreciate you reaching out and thinking about us as we fight this together.

Wilmington VA Medical Center

Thank You!

For the long hours, the increased risk, the time away from your families, and, especially, for your amazing dedication to caring for our neighbors. We are grateful because... *Of all your help.*
Keeping us safe. We ♥ you....



Practicing Gratitude: The "Wright" Choice

In this season of giving thanks, Carmen Wright of The Wright Choice Child Care, a family child care program in Claymont, Del., is practicing gratitude with her children, even during the most challenging times.

Carmen operated as an emergency child care site during the quarantine and continues to evolve to serve students' needs with remote learning. She recalls those early days of the state of emergency.

"It was stressful at the moment, but I was happy to support my essential parents and families," said Carmen. "I went ahead and purchased a mask for each of my children for safety precautions. The children love their masks."

Carmen didn't let the challenges of all the new safety and health requirements stand in the way of teaching a fundamental lesson of gratitude: feeling grateful is directly linked to giving back.

During the state of emergency, her students made cards for the first responders. "Carmen took the time to have her students write notes and then mailed them to health care providers," said Meghan Pallante, Stars technical assistant. "And the kids were thrilled when they received notes back."

Through this activity, Carmen was not only teaching her students about gratitude, but the importance of community. Whenever she can, she invests in supporting her students and their families, as reflected in her work with school-age students."

Carmen has gone above and beyond supporting the families with virtual learning," adds Meghan. "She purchased headphones for the kids and helped them decorate tri-fold boards to create individual workspaces."

She's also participating in another community, DIEEC's Communities of Practice. She cites this as greatly supportive in providing her with new tools and ideas.



QRIS Revision Transition Underway

The transition process for the new Delaware Stars has begun with Phase 1 for center-based programs. Phase 1 starts for family child care programs beginning in January 2021.



Capacity Grant News

Application rounds for the Capacity Grant, coordinated by Children & Families First (CFF), are temporarily suspended until sometime in early 2021.

Phase 1 focuses on testing the revised standards and key practices and developing training and technical assistance to support the revised system. Throughout the entire transition process, your feedback is critical. If you would like to get involved, please complete this [form](https://bit.ly/3mRI6zl). <https://bit.ly/3mRI6zl>

The [QRIS Revision landing page](https://www.delawarestars.udel.edu/qris-revision-update/) <https://www.delawarestars.udel.edu/qris-revision-update/> on the Delaware Stars website is updated and includes the new standards, key practices, and pathways.

Contract management is transitioning from the Department of Health & Social Services to the Department of Education. During this transition, acceptance of grant applications and grant approvals will be on hold.

The [CFF](https://www.cffde.org/capacity-grant) website <https://www.cffde.org/capacity-grant> includes general information about the grant.

Future application rounds and details for 2021 will be announced here in REACH and posted on the CFF website. Questions can be directed to [Andrea Prettyman](mailto:andrea.prettyman@cff.de.org), andrea.prettyman@cff.de.org; or call her at (302) 233-6475.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

New Professional Development Opportunities

We are excited to announce two new workshops and three existing workshops now available online.

The two new workshops are "Engaging Families Virtually" and "Express Yourself- Exploring How Creative Expression Enhances Learning." The three now available virtually are:

- What's New: Implementing Teaching Strategies Gold
- Implementing Teaching Strategies Gold
- Everyday Math Plus

"Engaging Families Virtually" was developed in response to the challenging circumstances of engaging families when we cannot see them in-person. The workshop offers creative ways to stay connected with families virtually, including connecting through cooking. Participants will also learn practical ways to strengthen family relationships between children and their "first teachers." This live two-hour workshop is presented over Zoom.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

The Importance of Flu Shots

With the fall surge of COVID-19, it's more important than ever to protect yourself and your loved ones against the spread of the flu.

Now is the time to encourage staff, parents, and children to get the flu vaccine before the flu season begins. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone six months of age and older should get the flu vaccine every year.

There are several options to get the flu vaccine. Encourage families to get the flu shot for their child during their well-child visits. Local pharmacies provide flu shots for children three years and older. The Delaware Division of Public Health provides clinics for flu shots. This information is included [here](https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/fluclinics.html). <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/fluclinics.html>

Head Start's launched a campaign to help spread the word on the flu and other vaccines' importance. This [video](https://bit.ly/3mR5c89), <https://bit.ly/3mR5c89>, is especially helpful.

"Express Yourself - Exploring How Creative Expression Enhances Learning" is a two-hour self-paced training that explores the benefits of creativity, including how creative expression enhances children's learning in all areas of the curriculum. The workshop also focuses on how music, movement, and dramatic play help develop children's leadership skills.

Dates are:

- Engaging Families Virtually- 11/17, 12/16
- Express Yourself- 12/21
- What's New- Implementing TS Gold- 11/30 and 12/21
- Implementing TS Gold- 12/1, 12/8, 12/10, 12/15
- Everyday Math PLUS - January - Scheduling Dates

[Register Here](#)



Thank you for continuing to step up to serve the needs of Delaware's children and their families during the pandemic. With children now in school, many of you have taken on the demands of overseeing remote learning, which requires additional resources to be effective.

The State of Delaware and the University of Delaware are partnering to provide Early Childhood Education (ECE) School-Age Remote Learning Grants for licensed child care programs serving school-age children engaged in remote or hybrid learning.

Grants are between \$500 and \$7,500 and are for additional expenditures necessary for serving school-age children engaged in remote learning due to COVID-19. The grants are for expenditures incurred between August 4, 2020 and December 30, 2020.

The priority of awarding funds will focus on four categories: staffing, technology, furniture, and school supplies. Additional categories (services, classroom materials, Internet services, and health and safety supplies) may be eligible with clear justification and documentation.

We will accept applications through November 13. It is important to act quickly to receive this reimbursement. There is a fixed amount of money to distribute.

For more information, please visit the [grant webpage](#) on the Delaware Stars website to access the application and for helpful resources to assist you with completing the requirements. <https://www.delawarestars.udel.edu/ece-school-age-remote-learning-grants/>

Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood

Delaware Stars for Early Success, website: www.delawarestars.udel.edu

DIEEC Professional Development, website: www.dieecpd.org

Main: (302) 831-3239 | Fax: (302) 831-4223

DELAWARE INSTITUTE FOR
Excellence in
Early Childhood





BACK TO SCHOOL UPDATES



Delaware School Districts Reopening Information – Update 10/15/20

Academia Antonia Alonso

Moving to Hybrid option 10/19.

Academy of Dover

Hybrid.

Appoquinimink School District

Hybrid option beginning 10/19.

Brandywine School District

All BSD students will start with remote learning through the first marking period of the 2020-2021 school year (Nov 6). [Remote learning support.](#)

Caesar Rodney School District

Elementary K-3 and CRCWP onsite and offsite program return 10/19, EIP and Elementary 4-5 return 10/26. Middle School return 11/9. High school return 11/16. [Guidance for a Safe Return.](#)

Campus Community School

Committed to providing as much in-person instruction as possible. Weds. School wide virtual days, Grade k-2 attend 4 days week and 3-8 attend 2 days, split into cohorts.

Cape Henlopen School District

Starting Sept. 16: Our Pre-K through fifth grade students will be in-person, five days a week OR can be completely remote. Our Sixth grade through Twelfth grade will be in-person two days a week OR can be completely remote.

Capital School District

Full Remote, first six weeks (10/23); Moving to hybrid model through 1/27 if board approved.

Charter School of New Castle

Remote plan until 10/16. Beginning 10/19 CSNC will be following CSNC Hybrid Plan (In-Person Students 7:30-2:30; At-Home Students 8:00 - 2:15).

Charter School of Wilmington

Online through January 4, 2021.

Christina School District

Remote, first six weeks (10/16); Hybrid model plans will be released week of 10/19. Intention to bring back students in Special Programs 10/26.

Colonial School District

Remote, first six weeks. The intention is for some groups of students to begin in-person learning beginning October 19th.

Delaware Military Academy

Remote learning with plan to move to hybrid learning Nov. 2.

Delmar School District

Virtual start through 11/16/20. The state of Delaware is providing parents the option to have your child remain in a virtual remote learning environment. Another option you may choose is to begin the 2nd Quarter in a Hybrid Model. The Hybrid Model would involve a combination of days physically at our school building and other days virtually remote. Survey was due 10/7.

East Side Charter School

Virtual school begins 8/31 with abbreviated schedule. Full school day, virtual to begin 9/8/20. In Person to start 9/14 for families who chose option.

First State Military Academy

Intend to allow families to attend in-person or participate 100% remote. More information to follow. [Reopening Plan.](#)

First State Montessori Academy

Hybrid Option beginning 10/5.

Freire Charter School

Remote.

Gateway Lab School

Transition Week for Hybrid Plan begins 11/9 (50% capacity per day) - Monday/Tuesday Cohort and Thursday/Friday Cohort.

Great Oaks Charter School

Remote.

Indian River School District

Hybrid option - staggered start dates for hybrid instruction by grade level.

Kuumba Academy Charter School

Start 10/19 hybrid (students attend 2 days/week - Mon/Tues and Thurs/Fri cohorts).

Lake Forest School District

Hybrid.

Las Americas Aspira Academy

Oct 12: Hybrid learning began K-1, 8th grade Scholars, & 9th graders.

Laurel School District

Remote Learning Model for first quarter. Moving to hybrid model 11/9-1/29.

MOT Charter School

Remote learning first 4 weeks. Hybrid phase-in on Monday 10/4 K-8 academy.

Milford School District

Grades K-3 began hybrid instruction 10/12. Grades 4-5 will be phased in 10/19. Grades 6-8 phased in 10/26. Grades 9-12 phased in 11/16.

New Castle County Vo-Tech School District

Hybrid begins 10/19.

Newark Charter School

Remote learning through 11/20/20.

Odyssey Charter School

The school is reopening in a virtual learning mode, and will only start bringing a small number of students back for short, specific activities later in September and early October.

Polytech

Hybrid.

Positive Outcomes Charter School

Remote learning for first six weeks phase in in-person opportunities for students with greatest needs.

Providence Creek Academy

Hybrid.

Red Clay Consolidated School District

Moving to hybrid beginning 10/19.

Seaford School District

Hybrid.

Smyrna School District

Initial virtual instructional period "rolling" into a hybrid instructional period.

Sussex Academy

Hybrid/Remote.

Sussex Technical School District

Modified remote plan - Teachers flexibility to hold in-person programs with parent permission.

Thomas A. Edison Charter School

Fully online until 10/16.

Woodbridge School District

Hybrid/Remote.