



## **California Department of Education Message on Reopening Direct Contract Programs**

The California Department of Education (CDE) released an email stating that it will provide updated guidance to direct-contract childcare programs following the Governor's announcement last week requiring most school districts to offer only distance learning until further notice.

### **Program Closures due to Public Health Orders**

Currently, programs can only be funded while closed if they are ordered closed by a state or local public health order. Until further clarification is given, the following guidelines apply:

- Direct contract childcare programs that are operated by a local educational agency (LEA) or operate on an LEA campus may close and will continue to be funded if it has been determined that the LEA may not open.
- Other programs must remain open unless there is a state or local order in place that broadly closes childcare settings or state or local orders close a specific childcare program.
- Any direct-contract program that closes must provide distance learning for the period of closure.

### **School Calendars**

SB 98 indicated that childcare programs must open within 21 days of their planned start date, unless the closure is due to a state or local public health order. Both LEA and non-LEA direct contract programs have the ability to revise their program calendars if they anticipate being unable to open within 21 calendar days of their operating calendar. Programs must reopen by September 8, unless closed by a state or local public health order. More details will be provided in upcoming Management Bulletins.

For additional information, please contact your assigned Program Quality Implementation Regional Consultant at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/assignments.asp>.