



DELAWARE OFFICE
OF STATEWIDE
AUTISM PROGRAMS

Dr. Mary Whitfield, BCBA
Director

Nicole Zehnder, BCBA
Specialist

THE MISSION OF DELAWARE OFFICE
OF STATEWIDE AUTISM PROGRAMS
is to provide training and
technical assistance on evidence-
based educational programming
to individuals who support
students with Autism Spectrum
Disorder in order for these
students to become productive,
socially connected, and personally
fulfilled members of the
community.

144 Brennen Dr.
Newark, DE 19713
302-292-5421
Fax: 302-454-5427
DOSAP@christina.k12.de.us

Memorandum

Date: June 9, 2021

To: Delaware Approved Autism Programs

From: Mary Whitfield, Ed.D., BCBA

Subject: Respite Services - Update

Beginning June 20, 2021, the allocated 24 hours of respite care per month with the additional seven days per year for extended respite care will resume. Respite care must be requested seven days in advance for short-term breaks (24 hours or less) and fourteen days in advance for long-term breaks (more than 24 hours up to seven days), with no accumulation of hours month-to-month.

Summer respite days of care will be Sunday, June 20, 2021 through Saturday, August 28, 2021. Respite times of care will be 8AM – 8PM; no overnights. ***Please note, if it applies, times of care (student and provider) should not conflict or overlap times of ESY or summer school.***

- ▶ Respite services will be provided in the home of the student or provider.
 - Residential units will remain closed through summer.
 - Overnight respite care is not permitted.
- ▶ During the time of respite care, providers must wear a mask (per school building guidance). (*Providers are responsible for securing their own personal protective equipment.*)
- ▶ During the time of respite care, providers and students must frequently wash/sanitize their hands.
- ▶ During the time of respite care, providers are permitted to visit any indoor or outdoor venues, however, mask wearing and social distancing must be implemented.
- ▶ Parents and providers must complete a coronavirus questionnaire and liability waiver within 24 hours of respite care. Information shared on this form may affect the approval of respite care.

We will continue to work collaboratively with district leaders, the Department of Education, and the Department of Public Health to monitor the coronavirus situation, and follow State guidance to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.

Parents continue to monitor their district's website and Delaware.gov for current updates pertaining to the coronavirus in Delaware.