



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

July 28, 2020

Cade Brumley, State Superintendent
Louisiana Department of Education
1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Superintendent Brumley:

Pursuant to the authority delegated to the State Superintendent by BESE in of Bulletin 137, *Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations*, to waive compliance with a minimum standard or regulation in Bulletin 137, the Division of Licensing is requesting a waiver of a minimum standard in order to support early learning centers severely impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency and to support children and parents in the process of returning students to schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

Bulletin 137

§1509. Policies

A. An early learning center shall establish in writing, prominently post or show parent's signature of receipt, and implement the following policies and minimum provisions of such policies:

* * * *

9. electronic devices policy that provides that all activities involving electronic devices, including but not limited to television, movies, games, videos, computers and hand held electronic devices, shall adhere to the following limitations:

- a. electronic device activities for children under age two are prohibited; and
- b. time allowed for electronic device activities for children ages two and above shall not exceed two hours per day, with the exception that television, DVD, or video viewing shall be limited to no more than one hour per day;

We are requesting that the two-hour daily limitation on time allowed for electronic device activities found in Bulletin 137, §1509(A)(9)(b) be waived for children ages four and older for whom care is being provided at a licensed early learning center simultaneously while the children are receiving virtual instruction or completing school work from the school in which they are enrolled for the 2020-2021 school year. This waiver applies only to time spent receiving virtual instruction or completing school work that requires access to an electronic device.

Louisiana Believes

We are requesting that this waiver be conditioned on centers providing to the Division of Licensing the following information regarding children for whom this waiver is used:

1. First and last name of the child.
2. Name of school in which the child is enrolled.
3. Supporting documentation of enrollment in virtual instruction.

This waiver is valid on the date it is signed by the State Superintendent and terminates at the end of the 2020-2021 school year, unless terminated sooner by the State Superintendent. This waiver, as with all waivers, is issued at the discretion of the State Superintendent and may be revoked by the State Superintendent at any time, either upon violation of any condition attached to it or upon the determination of the State Superintendent that continuance of the waiver is no longer in the best interest of children in care.

If approved, this waiver will be communicated to impacted persons and centers as they attempt to respond to this unprecedented public health emergency. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Shelia Campbell, Director
Division of Licensing

Approved:


Cade Brumley, State Superintendent

Date 7/29/20