



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 27, 2020

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors  
Child Caring Institutions and Court-Operated Facilities

**FROM:** Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent   
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

JooYeun Chang, Senior Deputy Director   
Children's Services Agency, Department of Health and Human Services

**SUBJECT:** Continuity of Learning Plan for Children in Child Caring Institutions  
and Court Operated Facilities - MEMO #COVID-19-062

As districts implement the continuity of learning and COVID-19 Response Plans (as required by Executive Order [EO 2020-65](#)), Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is providing specific guidance regarding the inclusion of child caring institutions (CCI) and court-operated facilities (COF) in those plans. As defined by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, a [child caring facility](#) is organized for the purpose of receiving minor children for care, maintenance, and supervision, usually on a 24-hour basis.

While the executive order does not explicitly specify the inclusion of child caring institutions or court-operated facilities in continuity of learning plans, MDE encourages a plan for learning at a distance for children in these institutions: both those connected to traditional districts, public school academies, and intermediate districts, and those not connected with PK-12 entities. Each CCI or COF should connect with a local or intermediate school district to determine how best to provide an education to students either by embedding the learning at a distance opportunities in the local district plan or as a separate plan. If the CCI or COF is not part of the local or intermediate school district, the CCI or COF should create its own plan to deliver educational programming to children residing there.

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The creation of an educational plan will honor the intent of the executive orders issued during this time and address the suspension of in-person instruction ([EO 2020-65](#)) and the reduction of risk of exposure to COVID-19 by ensuring access to education through alternative means ([EO 2020-62](#)).

The development and implementation of facility-based education plans may include relevant components found in the continuity of learning plan that would benefit students who are adjudicated or otherwise placed in a CCI. Additionally, these plans may allow students similar opportunities to students in a traditional PK-12 district. Teachers will continue to provide educational opportunities to students while essential facility staff coordinate access to technology devices, instructional materials, and supplies, as well as monitor students while they do their schoolwork.

MDE's Office of Educational Supports (OES) is available to provide support to facilities during the creation of their plans. Staff from OES are available to discuss best practices to meet the unique needs of students and their teachers. For additional questions and support, contact Dawn Carmody, MDE Neglected and Delinquent Education Consultant, at [CarmodyD1@michigan.gov](mailto:CarmodyD1@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors