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80/20 Attendance Rule FAQs
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Q: Why is the Agency changing the way it pays for attendance in the VPK program?

A: During the 2009 Special Session, the Florida Legislature changed the wording in the VPK statute to require that a provider's total payment for a child be at least 80% for days attended. This limits a provider from being reimbursed for more than 20% of absences based on the time a child attended. This statutory change required the Agency to significantly revise the rules related to VPK attendance.

Q: Why did the Agency choose the formula it did for calculating allowable payments?

A: The Agency had to create a formula that would ensure each child's total payment was in compliance with the 80% attendance to 20% absence ratio required in statute. Based on discussions with multiple partners and analysis of existing VPK attendance and absence data, the Agency determined that this formula would accurately implement the language the Legislature passed.

Q: Where can I get a copy of the new VPK Attendance Rule?

A: The proposed rule has been posted in the Florida Administrative Weekly. The proposed rule language may be accessed through the following link: https://www.flrules.org/notice/resultAdvance.asp?string=a&orgid=&orid=&keyword=60BB-8.205&ChkFAW=on&sid=&iid=&date1=07%2F30%2F2008&date2=07%2F30%2F2009&ChkFAC=on&date3=07%2F30%2F2008&date4=09%2F30%2F2009&submit=++Search

Q: Is it true that the 80/20 policy will actually put more money into providers' hands?

A: Based on analysis of previous years' data, the Agency does not expect providers to see a noticeable difference in the amount of money they will receive for a child. However, providers and coalitions should see a reduction in the administrative workload since they will not have to collect, review, and manage absence documentation related to the reasons that a child is absent.

Q If a child leaves a program early will the 80/20 attendance program reconciliation occur at that point in time?

A: No, the program reconciliation does not occur until the class ends.

Q: If a child transfers to a different provider does the first provider need to wait until the child completes the program at the second provider to receive payment?

A: The 80/20 attendance reconciliation occurs at the end of a class. If a child transfers from Provider A to Provider B, the child's attendance at Provider A will be reconciled at the end of Provider A's class. The child's attendance at Provider B will be reconciled at the end of Provider B's class.

Q: If a child transfers to a different class at the same provider, what is the 80/20 attendance program reconciliation based on?

A: The attendance reconciliation for that child will be based on the attendance and absences which occurred for that child in each class the child attended. The child's attendance is reconciled separately for each class.

Q: If a child attends 80% of the time, will they automatically be paid a full FTE?

A: If a child is enrolled with a provider for 540 or 300 hours, attends the last day of instruction, and attends 80% of the time, the provider should be reimbursed for a full FTE. This assumes that the provider complied with all of the requirements of the VPK program.

Q: Based on how few children actually violate the 80/20 rule, would we expect most transactions every month to not require any type of adjustment?

A: Based on analysis of previous program year's attendance, we do not expect a significant number of program-end adjustments to correct the 80/20 attendance to absence ratio.

Q: Are we going to track and only pay for up to 20% of absences per month? OR does the 20% rule apply to the child's total attendance for the year?

A: EFS will reconcile absences each month and once again when the class ends.

Q: 20% of 540 hours is 108 hours. Will the 80/20 attendance requirement be calculated on a monthly basis, and adjustments be made monthly or will we pay for absences until a child reaches 108 absence hours?

A: EFS will reconcile the 80/20 attendance monthly based on each child's attendance to absence ratio for that month based on hours not days. For example, if a child exceeds the allowable 20% absences for the month of September, EFS will create an adjustment to back out payment for that portion of absences that causes the child to exceed 20% for that month. At the end of the provider's program, EFS will look at each child's attendance to absence ratio across the class's VPK program. If the child's attendance to absence ratio complies with the 80/20 requirement, the provider will be reimbursed for any absences deducted during the monthly attendance reconciliation process.

Q: We realize that only a handful of children will exceed 108 hours of absence. However, some children have severe health issues that result in multiple absences each month due to treatments, doctor's visits, and not feeling well enough to come to the VPK program. Would a provider be eligible to receive payment for all absences for children with severe health problems?

A: There is a chance that a child with severe health problems may exceed the allowable 20% absences for the VPK program. To comply with the revised statute, in this case, a provider may not be paid for all absences

Q: Is actual attendance based on the scheduled instructional hours for a day or the actual hours during the day a student attends?

A: For payment purposes, if a student attends part or all of the instructional hours scheduled for a day, the provider will be paid for the entire day. If a child attends part or all of the instructional hours scheduled for a day, the child will be considered in attendance for all instructional hours scheduled for that day for the purposes of calculating the 80/20 attendance requirement. However, if a child exceeds the allowable 20% absences, the provider's payment will be reduced by the portion of hours that cause the child to exceed the 20%.

Examples:

Monthly attendance reconciliation

During one month, a provider is scheduled to deliver 20 instructional days for 3 hours per day. A child is enrolled for the entire 60 hour period (20 days * 3 hours per day). The child is absent for 5 days (15 hours) and attends 15 days (45 hours). The system will calculate the allowable total payment not to exceed the allowable program hours: 45 hours attended / .8 = 56.25 allowable hours. The child attended 45 hours and was absent for 15 hours for a total of 60 hours. The system will exclude the 3.75 hours in absences that exceed the allowable 20% from the provider's monthly payment.

Program attendance reconciliation

Using the child from the monthly attendance reconciliation example, if the child did not miss any other days throughout the program and the child was enrolled for 540 hours, the system will calculate the allowable total payment not to exceed the allowable program hours: 525 hours attended / .8 = 656.25 (this is adjusted to 540 hours, since the total hours cannot exceed 540). The system will add the 3.75 hours in absences previously deducted to the provider's final program payment for that class.