

Rural Area Flexibility Analysis

1. Types and Estimated Numbers of Rural Areas

The proposed regulations will apply to all modalities of child care programs operating in 44 rural areas of the state.

2. Reporting, Recordkeeping and Other Compliance, and Professional Services

There is no new required paperwork; however, child care programs and families may choose to enter into an agreement that outlines the expectation that child care programs and local governments will not be required to use or employ any additional professional services as a result of these proposed changes.

3. Costs

No additional costs will be assessed on providers with this regulation. Families in receipt of child care subsidy will be able to use these funds for care provided to school-age children during the day when children are not required to be physically present in school.

4. Minimizing Adverse Impact

The Office does not anticipate any adverse impact to rural area child care programs as a result of the proposed regulations. Without this regulation some school-age children will be without supervision while participating in remote learning. Professional development regarding the roles and responsibilities of remote learning will be created by the Office and will be made available at no cost to child care programs.

5. Rural Area Participation

OCFS heard from several child care providers and stakeholder groups concerning the interplay of remote learning and current regulatory guidance when drafting these regulations. These regulations support the feedback OCFS received from these providers and groups. OCFS will develop technical assistance regarding roles and responsibilities of remote learning. OCFS will provide guidance, technical assistance, and outreach to those that are impacted by the proposed regulation. OCFS will send notice of this new regulation electronically (via email) to child care providers and post this information on the OCFS child care website. The guidance, technical assistance, and outreach will include the contact information of someone in OCFS to answer questions on the proposed regulations and the email address of the regulations' mailbox (ocfs.sm.regcomments@ocfs.ny.gov) to provide comments on the regulations.