

Rural Area Flexibility Analysis

1. Types and estimated numbers of rural areas:

This rule is applicable in all rural areas of the state. It is estimated that there are 34 residential CSE providers in New York State with 9 residential CSE providers estimated to be located in rural areas of the state. This rule does not impact any additional school districts beyond those that are already impacted by the existing statutory and regulatory provisions, which are applicable statewide, including in all rural areas.

2. Reporting, recordkeeping and other compliance requirements; and professional services:

It is anticipated that there would be minimal new reporting, record keeping, or compliance requirements associated with this rule. There are also no new professional services anticipated to be required as a result of this rule.

3. Costs:

This rule does not mandate any new costs, but would authorize local departments of social services (LDSS) to make reimbursements for maintenance payments for residential Committee on Special Education (CSE) placements when a child has been absent from a program for more than 15 days when the absence was directly related to a state of emergency and determined to be necessary for the health and safety of the child. Any instance where a LDSS chooses to make reimbursement under the flexibility afforded by the rule would be reflective of costs that would have already been budgeted for and would have occurred absent a declared state of emergency. If a local district chooses to reimburse expenditures under the flexibility afforded by the rule, it may impact costs for local school districts, but such expenditures would have already been budgeted for.

4. Minimizing adverse impact:

There is no adverse economic impact for rural areas anticipated with this rule.

5. Rural area participation:

OCFS is in regular communication with the non-profit entities and LDSSs impacted by this rule. The Council on Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA), which is the umbrella organization representing some of the non-profit entities impacted by this rule, has repeatedly and strongly urged OCFS to take regulatory action on this issue to remove the barrier to reimbursement imposed by the existing regulation. OCFS has had several conversations with the State Education Department on these issues to preserve the availability of residential CSE services. This consultation encompasses impacted entities in both rural and non-rural areas of the state.

