



## **Preschool for All Attendance FAQ**

### **Are PFA slots full day / full time?**

- PFA Providers are expected to provide programming five days per week using one of the following schedules:
  - Full Day (10 hours) / Year-Round (September- August with up to 4 full weeks off)
  - School Day (6 hours) / School Year (September-June, 900 hours total)

### **Can a child miss school for outside therapies related to their IFSP services or developmental needs?**

- Preschool for All recognizes that children have multiple needs. Children can miss school for therapy related appointments, doctors appointments, consultations, evaluations, etc. The PFA provider should have a system in place so families can share when a child may miss school due to an appointment.
- PFA will not offer dual placement if the child is already enrolled in an MECP classroom.

### **What if a family consistently drops-off after the requested drop off time?**

- PFA providers should be flexible and plan for changes in drop-off times depending on families needs. PFA families cannot be turned away from the program because of their drop-off time.
- If programs have a policy like this in place, have a system for families to communicate arrival time if they are delayed for any reason. Be flexible with families' needs and welcome children/families if they arrive after this time.

### **What if a family continues to pick their child up late after the close of the program?**

- Preschool providers and educators support families with regular communication and strong relationship building. Strong relationships allow for collaborative conversations where the provider can learn about families' situations and needs and where a family can identify barriers to on-time pick up. The provider and family can also problem-solve together including connecting a family with available resources in the community.
- Late fees are not allowed for Preschool for All families.
  - It's important that providers explain why it causes problems on their end (staffing costs, staff needing to take care of their own families, etc).

- If the late pick-up issue becomes habitual and is significant (more than 10 minutes late on an ongoing basis) and collaborative problem-solving is not effective, then the provider can have a conversation with the family about whether this is the right placement for them. These conversations should happen **after a provider has made a significant effort to work with the family**. There may be a site with different or longer hours or a closer location that would be a better option for the family. Families can reach out to [pfa.support@multco.us](mailto:pfa.support@multco.us) or 503-988-7818 if they determine that a provider doesn't meet their needs and want to request a different placement. If you need additional support on this, please contact your Preschool Specialist/Partnership Coordinator.

**Why should we keep a PFA spot for a child that does not attend regularly when the spot could go to another family in need?**

- A family's needs can change depending on current circumstances and a family can be experiencing challenges and barriers that prevent regular attendance. Sometimes children may not be attending regularly because their families don't know that consistent attendance is important or because they have concerns about their child's experience.
- When a family is not attending regularly, the first goal should be to determine what the barriers to attendance are and partner with the family to identify possible solutions, support and develop positive attendance habits. Continuing to build a positive relationship with the family through this process, highlighting the strengths of their child, celebrating the days that the child does attend and encouraging the family to bring the child to school every day are also important steps to improve attendance.

**HELPFUL LINKS RELATED TO ATTENDANCE:**

[Early Education Tool Kit](#)

[Attendance Counts](#)

[Attendance Works: Family Engagement](#)

[Why Attendance Matters in Early Education Program](#)