

The Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship (BCCS) set the school-age state reimbursement rate to match the preschool-age state rate, effective 08/01/2020. This change was outlined in a memo from Patty Butler, Early Childhood Services Bureau Chief on 07/24/2020. This change to the school-age rate will remain in effect until further notice due to the COVID-19 emergency. This reimbursement rate change is reflected in school-age authorization plans.

The scholarship updated Authorization Plans for school-age children from 08/01/2020 to 10/31/2020. These Authorization Plans defaulted to the updated school-age reimbursement rate if the provider's previous rates were less than the updated school-age rate. Beginning 11/1/2020, the scholarship will pay either the provider's rate or the school-age rate, whichever is lower. If your current rate is lower than the state's reimbursement rate, and you would like to change your child care facility's rates, please contact your regional Child Care Resource and Referral agency to fill out a new *Best Beginnings Child Care Referral Program Provider Rate Form*.

For more information, please see the reimbursement rate tables at <https://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare/ecsbproviders>.

Additional Resources

Early Childhood Services Bureau

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare>

Child Care Policy Manual

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare/childcarepolicymanual>

Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/ChildCare/ChildCareResourceandReferral>

Best Beginnings Provider Portal

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/CCUBS>