



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR MEDICAID SERVICES**

Andy Beshear
Governor

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To: Providers and Participants in 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services Waivers

From: Pam Smith
Director, Division of Community Alternatives

Date: November 24, 2020

Re: Respite and Non-Traditional Instruction

As school districts across Kentucky continue with or return to non-traditional instruction (NTI) due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department for Medicaid Services (DMS) is clarifying the usage of Respite services for school-age children. Per guidance from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), DMS is allowing children to receive Respite while at home participating in NTI when their parents or caregivers must work or are unavailable.

Respite provided during NTI should only be for supervision or other needs typically addressed in the parent or caregiver's absence. Respite providers can give basic assistance, if needed, to get the child started with NTI. Basic assistance might include getting connected to the internet, logged into any school-related accounts, getting a camera setup, or muting/unmuting. If the child requires more complex assistance, such as help with completing schoolwork or actively participating in virtual classes, services must be provided by the child's school as part of the IDEA Act or using Medicaid's Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit.

If you have questions about this guidance, please contact the 1915(c) Waiver Help Desk at 1915cWaiverHelpDesk@ky.gov or (844) 784-5614.

Sincerely,

Pam Smith
Director, Division of Community Alternatives

