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County Superintendent of Schools

The FSS Exchange

Where policies, resources,
and families connect!

August 2026 Family Edition



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ORANGE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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For more information
scan the QR code
below to be directed
to our website!



Welcome to the first issue of Family Support Services - Orange County Department of Education's Newsletter! At OCDE FSS, we know that raising a family takes a village, and we are honored to walk alongside you on your journey.

We created this quarterly newsletter to bring you direct updates, practical resources, and helpful reminders about your child care subsidy. Beyond program information, this is a space to celebrate your family and connect you with quality care across Orange County. Thank you for entrusting us as a partner in your child's growth and bright future!

PARENT PORTALS - SIGN UP TODAY!

Managing your child care services just got easier! We encourage all participating families to sign up for the OCDE FSS Parent Portal—your secure, all-in-one hub for managing your child care account. With the Parent Portal, you can:

- **Access Forms Anytime:** Instantly view and download essential FSS forms whenever you need them.
- **Submit Documents Easily:** Securely upload required paperwork directly to your Family Service Technician—no emailing or mailing needed!
- **Stay Informed:** Keep track of your account status and receive important updates quickly.

 **Get started today by registering at:** <https://fpocdoe.nohosoftware.com/>

IMPORTANT BACK-TO-SCHOOL REMINDER

Is your child entering TK, Kindergarten, or moving up to 1st grade?

Please contact your Family Services Technician as soon as possible to update your child's care schedule. Please note, change requests may take up to 10 business days to process, please plan accordingly. Updating the child's schedule ensures there are no interruptions in their child care services.

Provide the following:

- Name of Elementary School and School District
- Grade child(ren) entering
- Copy of the school's bell schedule
- Any additional documentation requested by your Family Services Technician



In accordance to 5CCR Section 18075.2, OCDE will not reimburse providers for the scheduled academic portion of public education or private school in which a school-aged child is enrolled.

HOW TO: FILL OUT YOUR ATTENDANCE SHEETS

Parent is responsible to ensure information is correct & accurate. Failure to complete attendance sheet correctly can result in dis-enrollment from program.

DATE	DAY	ACTUAL TIME IN	PROVIDER TIME IN	ACTUAL TIME OUT	REASON FOR ABSENCE	AGENCY USE
1	Sun					
2	Mon					
3	Tue					
4	Wed					
5	Thu					
6	Fri					
7	Sat					
8	Sun					
9	Mon					
10	Tue					
11	Wed					
12	Thu					
13	Fri					
14	Sat					
15	Sun					
16	Mon					
17	Tue					
18	Wed					
19	Thu					
20	Fri					
21	Sat					
22	Sun					
23	Mon					
24	Tue					
25	Wed					
26	Thu					
27	Fri					
28	Sat					
29	Sun					
30	Mon					
31	Tue					

TWO COLUMNS
Provider is to complete. Used for school age children. TIME OUT is start of school. TIME IN is end of school. Times should be the bell schedule of school.

THIS COLUMN
Parent to enter exact time to the minute that the child is dropped off at child care. No blocking of time.

THIS COLUMN
Parent to enter exact time to the minute that the child is picked up from child care. No blocking of time.

THIS COLUMN
If child is not in care, write specific reason for absence, i.e. child sick, mom sick, provider holiday, family vacation.

Provider can enter invoiced amount

Parent must sign & date

Provider must sign & date

AGENCY OFFICE USE ONLY

PAYMENT OTHER FEES TOTAL PAID

DATE

The child care attendance sheet is a legally binding attendance record that must be completed daily with actual **sign-in** and **sign-out** times.

OCDE FSS staff will review the attendance sheet in detail to ensure accuracy—in accordance with guidelines established by the California Department of Social Services and OCDE FSS policies and procedures—prior to processing for reimbursement.

Attendance sheets must be completed daily and in ink. Liquid correction fluid (e.g., White-Out) is not permitted. Cross out the error, initial it, and write the correct information.

2026-2027 CALIFORNIA STATE MEDIAN INCOME UPDATES

Effective July 1st 2026, the California State Median Income (SMI) guidelines have been updated for the new fiscal year.

If you have any questions or would like to find out if the new guidelines affect your family, please contact our office. We're happy to help you review your eligibility and answer any questions you may have. Please see new income limits below:

FAMILY SIZE	FAMILY MONTHLY INCOME	FAMILY ANNUAL INCOME
1-2	\$7,119	\$85,434
3	\$8,054	\$96,652
4	\$9,636	\$115,637
5	\$11,178	\$134,139
6	\$12,720	\$152,641
7	\$13,009	\$156,110
8	\$13,298	\$159,580
9	\$13,587	\$163,049
10	\$13,876	\$166,518
11	\$14,166	\$169,987
12	\$14,455	\$173,456

To be prepared for Kindergarten, your child should:

- ✓ Be familiar with letters, numbers, colors, and shapes
- ✓ Have a positive attitude about starting school
- ✓ Be able to learn new things and make new friends
- ✓ Handle being apart from Mom and Dad for long periods
- ✓ Be able to work independently and make their own choices
- ✓ Be able to talk about feelings and ideas in complete sentences
- ✓ Be able to solve problems and think creatively



Know a Family Who Needs Help Paying for Child Care?

If you know a family that may need help with the cost of child care, financial assistance may be available for eligible Orange County families.

Getting started is easy! Families can visit chs-ca.org to learn more about the child care assistance program, review eligibility requirements, and submit an application. All initial applications for subsidized child care services for Orange County must be submitted through the **Children's Home Society of California (CHS)**.

Whether families are returning to work, attending school, or looking for affordable childcare options, we're here to help. If there are any questions or assistance is required with the application process, direct families to our team—we're happy to offer support every step of the way!