



## Office of Children and Family Services

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE  
Commissioner

June 1, 2020

Hon. Ellen C. Jaffee, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Children and Families  
Legislative Office Building, Room 626  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Assemblywoman Jaffee:

Thank you for your April 27<sup>th</sup> letter to Governor Cuomo regarding Advantage After School and Empire State After School grantees utilizing their after-school contracts during this difficult time of school closures. I appreciate your advocacy on behalf of these programs and New York's children and families that they serve. Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) staff have been working diligently to develop guidance for the after-school programs since school buildings were ordered closed. On May 11, e-mails were sent to all our Advantage After-School contractors providing the final guidance, which was based on guidance we received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

As far as Empire State After School programs, we are asking contractors to reach out directly to their OCFS Program Manager to provide details on how they have been operating and providing services during this time of school closures. Those contractors that are able to creatively deliver services as approved in their contracts and work plans will continue to be paid.

Please be assured that OCFS is acutely aware of the importance of after-school programs and the need to provide as much flexibility as possible for the programs to continue the important work that they do in providing vital services to students and families during these unprecedented times. OCFS staff stand ready to assist with any questions our contractors may have regarding this process.

Thank you again for contacting me about this matter and please be assured that OCFS absolutely shares your commitment to ensuring that New York's children have access to safe and engaging after school programming, now, and in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Poole".

Sheila J. Poole  
Commissioner