DATE: September 30, 2011

POLICY #: SSA # 12-3

TO: Local Departments of Social Services Directors, Assistant Directors, and Out-of-Home Placement Supervisors, Social Services Finance Officers

FROM: Carnita White, Executive Director Social Services Administration

RE: TYPE III Schools Placements

PROGRAM AFFECTED: Out-of-Home Placement

ORIGNATION OFFICE: Resource Development, Placement and Support Services

ACTION REQUIRED OF: All Child Welfare Service Staff

REQUIRED ACTION: Compliance with the Policy Directive

ACTION DUE DATE: September 30, 2011

CONTACT PERSON (S):
Anita Wilkins, Manager Resource Development, Placement and Support Services Social Services Administration (410) 767-7119

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BACKGROUND:

The Type III School is a nonpublic general education program that was established as a means to provide short-term transitional education programs. This transitional educational program was not to exceed an average of 60 days in a facility approved by the Maryland State Department of Education. Type III schools may provide one or a combination of the following educational programs: Nursery School, Kindergarten or grades 1-12, Diagnostic-Prescriptive educational, Pre-GED programs, or GED TEST preparation programs. Each Type III school must have a written description of its educational program to distribute to the representatives of the agencies placing students in the school. To read the Type III school regulation in its entirety, please go to COMAR 13A.09.10.20. To view the official listing of approved Type III schools, please go to: www.msde.maryland.gov/MSDE/nonpublicschools/npschools and select the Short Term Educational Program (TYPE III) Approved Under COMAR 13A.09.10 link.

Historically, children in foster care have been placed into Type III schools, as a condition for placement, while waiting for school records, to attend Pre-GED or GED programs, for afterschool academic support, and/or when a child/youth was suspended from a public school system. However, Type III education programs were never intended to be utilized in this manner.

PURPOSE:

This Policy Directive sets forth guidelines for the appropriate placement of children and youth in Type III Schools/Education Programs. The Type III education program is not to be utilized in lieu of enrolling a child in the public school system, or for not using the educational programming services provided by the Local School System. The requirement of group home providers that all children must attend on grounds Type III schools as a condition of placement is prohibited. The Type III School is a short-term transitional placement for children and youth that has been properly assessed by the local school system in collaboration with the local department of social services, and is for only those children truly in need of this level of educational intervention.

This policy directive does not apply to children and youth placed in the following programs: Diagnostic, Respite, and Residential Treatment Centers.

GOALS:

- To ensure that prior to placing a child in a Type III school setting that a proper assessment is done by and/or in collaboration with the Local School System;
- To ensure that Type III school placements are not done in lieu of public school enrollment;
- To ensure that Type III schools are being used as a means to provide short-term transitional educational services; and
- To establish clear guidelines for payment of Type III educational services.
GUIDELINES FOR TYPE III SCHOOL PLACEMENT

A child may not be placed in a Type III School Placement:
- As a condition for placement in a group home;
- If the child is suspended from school;
- While waiting for school records;
- For afterschool academic support; or
- For GED preparation and GED TESTS.

A child may be placed in a Type III School Placement for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days for the following reason(s):
1. If a child has not attended school for a long period of time (i.e. 1-2 years) and is in need of transitional services to assure smooth transition;
2. If the local school system, in conjunction with the local department of social services, is in the process of arranging transportation so that the child may remain in the child’s home school per the McKinney-Vento Act. In this case, attendance in Type III schools shall not exceed 15 calendar days; or
3. If the child is exhibiting behaviors that will make transition into the public school difficult and further services are needed to assure smooth transition and academic success.

If it is determined that Type III educational services are needed for the child by the local school system, then the school system is responsible for the payment of educational services. If the local department of social services make the determination that the use of Type III educational services is in the best interest of the child, then the local department shall be responsible for the purchase of services via service log payments in MD CHESSIE.