



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Transitional Assistance*


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Commissioner

**Online Guide Transmittal 2021-100  
December 29, 2021**

**To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff**  
**From:  Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Change Management**  
**Re: TAFDC: Restart of TAFDC Learnfare Requirements**

**Overview**

The TAFDC Learnfare requirement mandates that any child age six (or in first grade, whichever occurs later) through age 15 must attend school regularly. Verification of attendance must be obtained for any child who is subject to the Learnfare requirement. To comply with Learnfare rules, a child may not have more than eight unexcused absences in each quarter. Children who receive benefits under a grantee known to BEACON as having a disability are exempt from Learnfare requirements.

The Learnfare tracking process is largely automated in BEACON through a data exchange with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for children attending public schools.

For children in private, parochial or a home-school program, an automated Learnfare Attendance Report for Schools form is sent to the grantee who must bring this form to the identified school or home school provider to be completed by the appropriate staff person and returned to DTA.

Since March of 2020, due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, all data exchanges with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the automated Learnfare Attendance Report had been suspended. Effective immediately, data exchanges with DESE and the automated generation of Learnfare Attendance Reports will resume. All information provided by DESE prior to March 2020 has been cleared, and any active or pending Learnfare sanctions have been removed.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this Online Guide Transmittal is to advise staff that TAFDC Learnfare Requirements will resume. This process includes:

- Learnfare data exchanges with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) resuming,
  - Automated generation of Learnfare Attendance Reports resuming,
  - Pending or active learnfare sanctions in BEACON cleared,
  - Prior attendance information provided by DESE removed from BEACON.
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**Learnfare Attendance Report/School Enrollment Verifications:**

With periodic school closures still taking place due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, a completed Learnfare Attendance Report or School Enrollment form may be challenging for clients to obtain. In these instances, please ask the client to provide any pertinent school attendance information they can and assist the client in obtaining collateral contact whenever possible. When traditional verifications are not immediately available, self-declarations are to be used.

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**Questions**

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email them to DTA.Procedural Issues.

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.

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