



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


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**Online Guide Transmittal 2022-93
November 17, 2022**

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff
From:  Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Change Management
Re: TAFDC: Restart of Learnfare Requirements 2022-2023 School year

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.

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.

**Overview
(continued)**

Expected to go live on November 18th, data exchanges with DESE and the automated generation of Learnfare Attendance Reports will resume. All information provided by DESE prior to September 2022 has been cleared, and any active or pending Learnfare sanctions have been removed.

Case managers are reminded to monitor the Learnfare Intervention/Probation view and work with grantees marked for Intervention to resolve any issues. This may mean exploring if the grantee has a disability, if the absence was due to illness or family crisis but was not recorded as an excused absence by the school, or if the grantee has attempted to get the necessary documentation but is not able to. For these and any other good cause reasons, probationary status or sanction must be removed immediately.

Purpose

The purpose of this Online Guide Transmittal is to advise staff that the 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 restarting,
 - pending or active learnfare sanctions in BEACON being cleared, and
 - prior attendance information provided by DESE being removed from BEACON.
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**Learnfare
Attendance
Reports**

The child's demographic information, name of the school, and grade must be entered correctly in BEACON. School attendance reports are generated three times a year by DESE in **November, April, and July**.

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 the DTA.Procedural Issues Mailbox.

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