



TO: **Child Care Eligibility and Authorization Workers and Supervisors**  
**Income Maintenance Supervisors**  
**Income Maintenance Lead Workers**  
**Income Maintenance Staff**  
**Training Staff**  
**Child Care Coordinators**

DECE/BCCSA OPERATIONS MEMO
No: 26-13
DATE: 05/20/2026
Child Care

FROM: David Timmerman, Director  
Bureau of Child Care Subsidy Administration  
Division of Early Care and Education  
Department of Children and Families

**SUBJECT: Get Kids Ready and 4K Community Approach programs for Wisconsin Shares**

**CROSS REFERENCE:** [Wisconsin Shares Handbook](#),  
Section 16.1.1.3 Co-located Head Start and 4K School Programs

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2026

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this operations memo is to announce the implementation of Get Kids Ready into the Wisconsin Shares Child policy and add a definition for 4K community approach programs into policy for clarity.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2026, Get Kids Ready will be a new, free initiative for 4-year-olds in child care to get school readiness instruction at their child care provider. The Get Kids Ready school readiness instruction hours may be included in a Wisconsin Shares child care authorization.

4K community approach programs have been operating in Wisconsin for many years. The addition of a definition will help workers with identifying the 4K programs where school districts are partnering with child care providers and apply the policy accurately.

**POLICY:** The policy in the attachment will be added to the Wisconsin Shares Handbook with the next update. New policy is highlighted in yellow and policy with red strikethrough is being deleted.

Current policy  
16.1.1.3 Co-located Head Start and 4K School Programs: Currently, this policy does not include the Get Kids Ready program, and it references 4K school programs instead of 4K community approach programs.

**New policy**

16.1.1.3 Co-located Head Start and 4K School Programs will be retitled to *16.1.1.3 Co-located Head Start and 4K Community Approach Programs*. The policy explains that all the hours from a Get Kids Ready program are hours that can be included in the child care authorization if the program is co-located with the child care provider location. 4K programs will be renamed to *4K community approach programs* and the policy will include the following definition.

Definition: 4K community approach refers to a collaborative model in Wisconsin where school districts partner with child care providers to deliver 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) at the child care provider's location.

**CONTACTS:**

For Wisconsin Shares policy questions outside of Milwaukee County contact your DCF Area Administration Child Care Coordinators at [DCFBAACCPolicyHelpDesk@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCFBAACCPolicyHelpDesk@wisconsin.gov).

For Program Integrity technical assistance, Child Care CARES/CWW and CSAW Processing Questions statewide, and policy questions in Milwaukee County, contact the Child Care Help Desk at: [childcare@wisconsin.gov](mailto:childcare@wisconsin.gov) or 608-422-7200.

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