

Frequently Asked Questions for Tiered Reimbursement

What is a Tiered Reimbursement Bonus?

The Tiered Bonus is calculated to bring the amount your program receives for a child on POC to 80%, 90% or 100% of the 2011 market rate. The Tiered Bonus is the *difference* between the amount your program receives from Division of Social Services and the 2011 market rate for your county and the child's age. Star 3 programs receive 80% of market rate, Star 4 programs 90% and Star 5 programs 100%. See *Chart of market rate and POC*.

How does my program become eligible for the Stars Tiered Reimbursement Bonus?

Programs must be actively participating in Delaware Stars, achieve a minimum of Star Level 3 and have children enrolled who are receiving Purchase of Care.

When will my program be eligible for the Stars Tiered Reimbursement Bonus?

Programs are eligible for the Tiered Bonus when they reach a designation of Star 3, 4 or 5.

What will my program need to do to receive the Stars Tiered Reimbursement?

When your program is officially notified by Department of Education of your Star 3 designation, you will receive a letter of agreement for you to sign and return to Department of Education. Your reimbursement will be calculated for the entire month in which your program first became a Star 3.

How and when will my program receive the Stars Tiered Reimbursement Bonus?

The Tiered Bonus will be deposited to the same account where the program's regular Purchase of Care funds are deposited.

Tiered Bonuses will be issued quarterly. The Bonus will be issued in the second month following the end of the quarter, see chart below:

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Payment</u>
October, November, December	February
January, February, March	May
April, May, June	August
July, August, September	November

What if my program moves up a Star Level during the quarter?

Programs will receive the Bonus percentage for the new Star Level Designation from the beginning of the month in which the Verification for the new Designation was completed. For example, if your program Verification is completed on June 23rd and the program becomes a Star 4 during the third quarter, then your Tiered Bonus will be calculated at 80% for the months of April and May but at 90% for the entire month of June.

What if the children in my program have a birthday within the quarter and are eligible for a different POC rate?

The Tiered Bonus will calculate the rate for the child's age from the beginning of the month regardless of the actual birth date. For example, if a child has a birth date of June 23rd and turns 3 years old, the rate for the third quarter for this child will be calculated for a 2 year old for the months of April and May and for a 3 year old for the entire month of June. *Note: this is different from the way regular POC is calculated.*

How is the attendance calculated for each child?

The attendance information used for calculating the Tiered Bonus is provided to the Department of Education by the Division of Social Services Purchase of Care program by the 25th of the month following the end of the quarter. No further adjustments of attendance data will be considered for purposes of calculating the Tiered Bonus. *Note: this is different from the way regular POC is calculated.* Therefore, programs are encouraged to provide complete attendance data to Division of Social Services Purchase of Care program no later than the 15th of the month following the end of the quarter as shown in chart below.

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Attendance Data Cutoff</u>	<u>Sent from DHSS to DOE</u>
Oct, Nov, Dec.	January 15 th	January 25 th
Jan, Feb, Mar.	April 15 th	April 25 th
Apr, May, June	July 15 th	July 25 th
July, Aug, Sept	October 15 th	October 25 th

What happens if my program is no longer participating in Stars?

Programs will receive the Tiered Bonus only for the months in a quarter that they are actively participating in Delaware Stars and eligible to receive a Bonus. A program may be ineligible to participate in Delaware Stars if they are under a compliance investigation or enforcement action with a State or Federal program.