

Flying Start Partners Webinar - 31 July 2026

Q & A Summary

Policy and Funding Guide for 2027 delivery

Q: Is the 60-day teacher absence rule applied across the whole service or per teacher?

A: The 60-day teacher absence rule applies per funded preschool program rooms, not per teacher or across the whole service. This includes both 3- and 4-year-old preschool rooms and mixed-age preschool rooms. It relates to the preschool program being delivered without a teacher for a cumulative total of 60 business days within a 12-month period (calendar year). Therefore, if a service delivers a funded preschool program across both a mixed-age room and a 4-year-old only room (2 rooms in total), and the teacher delivering the mixed-age room leaves the service, this will start a 60-day supportive period on that room only.

Q: Does the new 60-day teacher absence rule commence from January 2027?

A: No. The 60-day rule has been in place since January 2026; however, the Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) has now detailed in the Policy and Funding Guide for 2027 how it will be calculated. Additional external guidance documents will also be uploaded to the Partner Portal in the coming weeks to support 2026 and 2027 delivery.

**Q: Do services need to notify the OECD within 90 days for their annual 2-week closure?
What if the closure occurs outside the preschool delivery period?**

A: No. A planned annual shut down (e.g. 2 weeks at end of year) is not considered a service closure requiring notification to the OECD.

However, if a service is temporarily unable to deliver its funded preschool program outside of its usual operating arrangements (for example, due to renovations or another temporary closure), the service must notify the OECD.

For planned temporary closures that affect delivery of the funded preschool program, services must provide 90 days' written notice to the OECD.



Q: Are services required to complete both the Consent Form and the Confirmation of Enrolment Notice, or can these be incorporated into their existing enrolment processes?

A: From 2027, there is a new process to confirm information sharing consent and confirm enrolments. This new process is to support obtaining consent earlier than is currently required, so that the OECD can collect planned enrolment information from services approximately six months before children commence Flying Start preschool, including for mid-year intakes.

Services do not need to create a separate process. The Consent Form can be incorporated into your existing enrolment and intake processes, provided consent is obtained early enough to meet the required reporting timeframes.

The 3-year-old Confirmation of Enrolment Notice is an 'opt out' notice that will be introduced for mid-year 2027 enrolments. Services will be required to send this in January 2027 to all parents/guardians with children that, based on their age, are eligible to commence 3-year-old preschool mid-year.

Further information will be provided in October 2026 on this approach.

Q: If a child continues from the 3-year-old preschool program into the 4-year-old preschool program at the same service, do families need to complete another Consent Form, or can the original 3-year-old Consent Form carry over?

A: From 2027, the original Consent Form to share data with the OECD can carry over and does not need to be completed again, provided the family's consent remains current.

However, for 4-year-old preschool the OECD will need to confirm where the child is receiving their funded preschool program so the correct funding can be applied. Therefore, the family will need to "opt in" to the 4-year-old program at your services for you to receive applicable funding for that child.

Q. The Policy and Funding Guide for 2027 delivery requires partner services to provide in writing 90 days' notice of changes in their capacity to deliver Flying Start preschool. If unforeseen circumstances make it impossible to provide 90 days' notice, are any exceptions available, and would penalties apply?



A: The OECD recognises that unforeseen circumstances can arise. If a service is unable to provide the required 90 days' notice, they should contact the OECD as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

