

(7) Disagreements between a parent and a local school system regarding the availability of a free appropriate public education and the question of financial responsibility are subject to the provisions of subsections (c) through (h) of this section and COMAR 13A.05.01.15C.]

8-416.

(a) (1) There is a Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program in the Department.

(2) The purpose of the Program is to provide a statewide, community-based interagency system of comprehensive early intervention services to eligible infants and toddlers, birth through age 2, and their families.

(c) The Program shall include the early intervention services provided or supervised by the Department and the [State Departments] DEPARTMENT of Health and Mental Hygiene including the Program for Hearing-Impaired Infants established under Title 13, Subtitle 6 of the Health - General Article and THE DEPARTMENT OF Human Resources[, and the Office for Children, Youth, and Families].

8-417.

(b) (1) The Department of Education, as the fiscal agent of the [Subcabinet Fund for Children, Youth, and Families under Article 49D of the Code] CHILDREN'S CABINET INTERAGENCY FUND, shall administer and implement a redesigned rate setting process for nonpublic general education schools, residential child care programs, and nonresidential child care programs.

(2) The Department of Human Resources, the Department of Juvenile Services, the Department of Budget and Management, the Office for Children, Youth, and Families, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, AND THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN shall participate with the Department of Education in the development and implementation of rates in programs licensed or approved by those agencies to the extent required by federal and State law.

(c) (1) A decision as to the amount or implementation of rates established under this section may be appealed by sending a written request for appeal to the [Subcabinet] THE CHILDREN'S CABINET.

(2) The request shall set forth the specific objections to the decision as to the amount or implementation of rates established under this section.

(3) The [Subcabinet or the Subcabinet's] CHILDREN'S CABINET OR designees shall issue a final, binding opinion upholding, reversing, or modifying the rates set by the Interagency Rates Committee within 30 days after receipt of the request for appeal.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That all laws or parts of laws, public general or public local, inconsistent with this Act, are repealed to the extent of the inconsistency.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2006.