



Child Care Regulation Updates

New School Readiness Requirements



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CCDF Reauthorization

What is it?

- Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 signed into law 11/19/14
- Reauthorizes Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program for first time since 1996
- CCDF is \$5.3B block grant that gives funds to states to provide access to child care services; in Florida - *School Readiness Program*

Source: ACF Office of Child Care



New School Readiness Requirements

- **Health and Safety Monitoring** (School Readiness Providers)
 - Annually conducted by licensing staff
- **Training Requirements** (School Readiness Providers)
 - Timeframes for completion of training (Pre-Service)
 - Annual in-service training
- **Group Size and Staff-to-Child Ratio** (School Readiness Providers)
 - Establish Group Size and Staff to Child Ratio
- **Background Screening (All Providers)**
 - New components used to determine qualification



Provider Types Impacted

Contracted to Participate in School Readiness with local ELC:

- Licensed Child Care Facilities
- Licensed Family Day Care Homes
- Large Family Child Care Homes
- Registered Family Day Care Homes
- Religious-Exempt Child Care Facilities
- Non-Public Schools
- Public Schools
- Informal Child Care Providers
- Other exempt/non-licensed provider types



Health and Safety Monitoring

- Any provider who accepts school readiness funds must allow the department or local licensing authority to perform inspections to verify compliance with health and safety standards established by Office of Early Learning (OEL.)
- This applies to licensed and license-exempt providers.



The Inspection

- Specific School Readiness templates have been issued for license exempt providers - Inspected Annually.
- Licensed Providers have additional standards added to current templates - Inspected Annually; Group Size, Training, Expulsion, and Emergency Prep Policies.
- Health and Safety standards have been adopted by OEL in rule.



Technical Assistance

- New School Readiness standards that were adopted in rule 6M-4.620, F.A.C. became effective on October 24, 2016.
- Technical Assistance will be given on first visit.



Technical Assistance

- To access the new health and safety requirements visit the following link:

<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/RuleNo.asp?title=Office%20of%20Early%20Learning%20-%20School%20Readiness%20Program&ID=6M-4.620>



Technical Assistance

- Current providers whose School Readiness contract was signed on or before December 31, 2016 must achieve compliance with the standards according to the following sequential deadlines:

Technical Assistance

- March 31, 2017 Pre-service training Requirements.
- -June 30, 2017 All other health and safety standards.
- -October 25, 2018 Active Credential Requirement related to group size.



Pre-service Training

- **Pre-Service Training** - Training must be completed within 90 days of the date of hire, with a program participating in the School Readiness program.



Pre-service Training

- Training must be documented on the Department's training transcript
- Or the 'Early Learning Florida' transcript.



Pre-Service Training

- This is referred to as pre-service training and personnel who have not completed all pre-service training requirements may not be allowed any unsupervised contact with, or care of children in a school readiness program
- Due March 31, 2017.



Pre-service Training

- This is referred to as pre-service training, and personnel in a LFCCH who have not completed all pre-service training requirements may not be allowed any unsupervised contact with or care of children in a school readiness program
- **Due March 31, 2017.**



Group Sizes/Ratios

- Establishes a maximum number of children that can be in one classroom area.
- Group size does not apply during times of outdoor play, provided that ratios and the applicable square footage requirements are maintained at all times.



Group Size

- Prior to making changes to classroom set-up by adding stable walls/barriers to divide classroom space you are encouraged to reach out to your local fire department for guidance and assistance
- **Due June 30, 2017.**
- You must also have your Licensing Counselor come to re-measure the facility when changes are needed..



Group Size

- Birth -12 months not to exceed 12 children
- 1 y -24 months not to exceed 12 children
- 2 y – 3 y not to exceed 22 children
- 3 y – 4 y not to exceed 30 children
- 4 y – 6 y not to exceed 40 children



Group Size

- In groups of mixed age ranges, where children one year of age but under two years of age are included, the group size for the youngest population present applies.
- In groups of mixed age ranges, where children two years of age or older are included, the group size for the majority population present applies.



Group Size

- **Important!** As the group size increases and requires additional staff to meet ratio, one staff must possess at a minimum an active credential.
- **Due October 25, 2018.**



Group Size For FDCH and LFCCH

- **Group Size for FDCH and LFCCH** – Establishes a maximum number of children that can be in one classroom area and **is the same as the ratio categories** required for licensing.
- **Due June 30, 2017.**



Group Size For FDCH

- A maximum of four children from birth to 12 months of age.
- A maximum of three children from birth to 12 months of age, and other children, for a maximum total of six children.
- A maximum of six preschool children if all are older than 12 months of age.
- A maximum of 10 children if no more than 5 are preschool age and, of those 5, no more than 2 are under 12 months *of age.*



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Group Size For LFCCH

- A maximum of 8 children from birth to 24 months of age.
- A maximum of 12 children, with no more than 4 children under 24 months of age.



Expulsion Policy

- Expulsion Policy - Each school readiness program must have written policies and procedures regarding discipline and expulsion of children in care.



Expulsion Policy

- A copy of the current policies must be available to the inspection authority to review.



Expulsion Policy

- Verification that the program has provided the parent or guardian a written copy of the disciplinary and expulsion policies used by the program must be documented in the child's file with the signature of the custodial parent or legal guardian
- **Due June 30, 2017.**



Emergency Preparedness

- Emergency Preparedness - The plan must facilitate parent/guardian reunification onsite and offsite.



Emergency Preparedness

- *The plan must include accommodations for infants and toddlers, if applicable.*
- *The plan must describe how the facility will meet the needs of all children, including children with special needs or with chronic medical conditions, during and following an emergency event*
- ***Due June 30, 2017.***



Sharing Of The Inspection

- The results of this inspection will be shared with the ELC as a component of the program's School Readiness contract file.
- If you have additional questions concerning the new rule changes you may contact your licensing counselor or local licensing office.

