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Governor
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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Beth Bye
Commissioner

TO: Licensed Child Care Centers and Group Child Care Homes

FROM: OEC Division of Licensing

DATE: August 1, 2024; **REVISED August 20, 2024**

RE: Policies and Procedures Regarding School-Age Ratios and Group Size Requirements for Programs Serving School Age Children

Earlier this month, in accordance with Public Act 24-78, the OEC sent a notice to child care center and group child care home programs about implementing policies and procedures regarding school-age ratio and group size requirements while in the process of adopting regulations. This would have removed group size requirements for this age group which are currently limited to twenty (20) children. Since such time, however, we have learned that the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) rules require programs to have ratio and group size for specific age populations to strengthen the adult and child relationship in each type of setting involved and provide for the safety and developmental needs of the children served.

Based on this information, effective August 30, 2024, the following **updated** policies and procedures will be implemented for school age children:

- There shall be at least one qualified program staff person for every fifteen children or fraction thereof.
- **The group size shall not exceed thirty (30) children.**
- Children born in September through December who are not enrolled in kindergarten but will turn five (5) by January 1 shall be deemed eligible to enroll as a school age child with written authorization from the parent and the director.

Please remember that the regulations require when there is a mixed age group, the smaller ratio and group size requirements shall prevail.

Attached please find the revised policy which will also be posted on the Licensing section of our website. Programs should ensure that all staff are made aware of this new requirement as both ratio and group size will continue to be monitored during licensing inspections.

State of Connecticut
Office of Early Childhood
Policies and Procedures Regarding
School-Age Ratio and Group Size Requirements
for
Child Care Centers and Group Child Care Homes

(Effective August 30, 2024, until the time final regulations are adopted)

Pursuant to Section 33 of Public Act 24-78, OEC hereby establishes policies and procedures necessary to implement school-age ratio and group size requirements while in the process of adopting such requirements in regulation form. In order to effectuate these policies and procedures, the following regulations are replaced and superseded as described below. These policies and procedures are effective as of the date set forth above and shall be valid until the time final regulations are adopted.

Sec. 19a-79-4a(c)(5)(A): Staffing and Consultants

(A) The group size shall not exceed twenty children. Group size for field trips exclusively for school age children, outdoor play exclusively for school age children, and activities organized by program staff exclusively for school age children shall not exceed thirty children. Staff child ratios shall be maintained during these activities.

Sec. 19a-79-11. School age children endorsement

(d) There shall be at least one [(1)] qualified program staff person for every fifteen (15) [each ten (10)] children or fraction thereof.

(e) The group size shall not exceed thirty (30) [twenty (20)] children.

(f) Children born in September, October, November, and December who are not enrolled in kindergarten but who will turn five (5) by January 1 shall be deemed eligible to enroll as a school age child provided such program receives written authorization from such child's parent and the director to enroll such child in the school age program. The written authorization shall be kept on file at the program and available to the Office upon request.