



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Beth Bye
Commissioner

Memorandum

To: Senator Doug McCrory, Chair, Education Committee
Representative Bobby Sanchez, Chair, Education Committee
Senator Eric Berthel, Ranking Member, Education Committee
Representative Kathleen McCarty, Ranking Member, Education Committee

From: Commissioner Beth Bye, Office of Early Childhood

Re: Report on OEC-Funded Early Care and Education Staff Qualifications

Date: January 12, 2021

The Office of Early Childhood submits a report concerning Qualified Staff Members (QSM) in OEC-funded early care and education programs pursuant to C.G.A. Sec. 10-520a:

Sec. 10-520a. Report re staff qualifications requirement compliance. Not later than July first, annually, the Office of Early Childhood shall submit a report regarding the status of school readiness program providers' compliance with the staff qualifications requirement, described in subsection (b) of section 10-16p, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

Under Executive Orders 7B and 7T, which were extended by Executive Order Nos. 9A and 9L, Commissioner Bye is granted the authority to waive requirements due to the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency. On March 20, 2020, under Memo #31, Waivers for School Readiness, Child Day Care, and Smart Start funded programs, the Commissioner waived the Qualified Staff Member requirement for OEC-funded programs because of challenges in staffing. The early childhood community expressed, and the Commissioner responded to, concern regarding the QSM requirement as staff absences increased because of teacher illness, quarantine requirements and family care needs at home. It was evident that programs could not consistently maintain compliance and / or create cohorts of staff and children while observing QSM parameters. This requirement is currently waived through SFY21 or until OEC determines that programs are sufficiently staffed to be held accountable for compliance.

If you have any questions, please contact Maggie Adair, Director of Government & Community Relations at 860-500-4415, or maggie.adair@ct.gov

cc: House Clerk
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