

Public Acts Recently Enacted

The following is a list of public acts passed during the 2023 legislative session that are specific to and have direct impact on the Office of Early Childhood's (OEC) child care and/or youth camp licensing programs. This is only a summary. The complete text of each public act should be reviewed and may be accessed by visiting the Connecticut General Assembly's web site at cga.ct.gov.

Public Act 23-29 An Act Exempting from Licensing Requirements Certain Child Care Services for Children of Members of the United States Military.

Section 1 of this act, effective upon passage, exempts from licensure requirements programs that exclusively provide care for children of members of the United States Coast Guard or any branch of the military under the United States Department of Defense and that are (A) administered by the federal government or on federal property, or (B) administered by a person certified as a family child care provider by the United State Coast Guard or a branch of the military under the United States Department of Defense.

Public Act 23-118 An Act Concerning the Plan of the Board of Regents for Higher Education Concerning the Number of Child Care Centers Near Campuses

Section 1 of this act, effective upon passage, requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education, in consultation with the OEC, to develop a plan to increase the number of child care centers on or near each campus of the regional community-technical colleges and the Connecticut State University System. The plan extends the date to January 1, 2024 for the Board of Regents for Higher Education to submit their plan to the General Assembly, which must include the development, expansion and maintenance of child care facilities that are (1) utilized by an early childhood education program for instructional purposes or (2) provide evening and weekend child care services in accordance with college or university course schedules. New provisions of the plan include an assessment of the child care needs of the student body and the existing child care services and facilities available on each campus or surrounding community, opportunities for collaboration with other stakeholders, and a budget and implementation timeline for the plan.

Public Act 23-142 An Act Concerning Certain Protections for Group and Family Child Care Homes

Section 1 of this act, effective October 1, 2023, indicates zoning regulations cannot require special permits or exceptions for operating family or group child care homes located in a residence. Municipal zoning regulations are prohibited from treating group child care homes different than single- or multi-family dwellings. On December 1, 2023, each municipality's CEO must submit annually to OPM a sworn statement that the municipality's zoning ordinances comply with these zoning requirements or identify the specific timeframe within which the municipality will bring its zoning ordinances into compliance.

Section 4 of this act, effective October 1, 2023, indicates any inspection by the OEC of a group child care home located in a residence shall include an inspection for evident sources of lead poisoning and shall provide for chemical analysis of any paint chips found on such premises. In addition, a municipality may not subject the operation of a licensed group child care home located in a residence to any conditions, other than those imposed by the commissioner pursuant to this subsection, if the group child care home complies with all codes and ordinances applicable to single and multifamily dwellings.

Public Act 23-150 An Act Concerning Early Childhood Education, an Audit of the State-wide Mastery Examination, the Establishment of the Connecticut Civics Education and Media Literacy Task Force, the Provision of Special Education, and a Bill of Rights for Multilingual Learner Students.

Section 3 of this act, effective July 1, 2023, allows any licensed child care center, group child care home, or family child care home to administer epinephrine cartridge injectors to a child experiencing an allergic reaction without having a prior written authorization of a parent or guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for the administration of epinephrine. The person administering epinephrine must have training to do so. The parent or guardian may submit, in writing, to the child care provider that epinephrine shall not be administered to their child.

Public Act 23-159 An Act Concerning Assorted Revisions to the Education Statutes.

Section 3 of this act, effective July 1, 2024, changes the kindergarten entry age of five from January 1 to September 1.

Public Act 23-183 An Act Concerning the Employment of Certain Minors as Youth Camp Staff Members and Lifeguards

Section 1 of this act, effective from passage, indicates a minor who has reached the age of fifteen may be employed or permitted to work as a staff member at a youth camp or as a lifeguard during school vacations when school is not in

session for five consecutive days or more, for not more than forty hours in any week, for not more than eight hours in any day, and between the hours of 7am and 7pm, except from July first to the first Monday in September in any year, any such minor may be employed until nine o'clock in the evening. Any minor who has reached the age of fifteen and is employed or works as a staff member at a youth camp or as a lifeguard shall be supervised by a person of at least eighteen years of age. Each person who employs a fifteen-year-old minor as a staff member at a youth camp or as a lifeguard shall obtain a certificate (working papers) stating such minor is fifteen years of age or older. No such certificate is required by minors employed by a municipality as a staff member at a youth camp or as a lifeguard.

Section 2, effective from passage, requires the superintendent of schools, an agent designated by the superintendent, or the supervisory agent of a nonpublic school, to furnish to any person desiring to employ a minor under the age of 18 as a staff member at a youth camp or as a lifeguard, not employed by a municipality, a certificate showing such minor is fifteen years of age or older.

Public Act 23-204 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefor, and Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget.

Section 187 of this act, effective upon passage, exempts the Police Athletic League of Stamford, Inc., from the OEC licensure requirements for child care service providers. Existing law exempts certain child care service providers from the OEC licensure requirements, including public school systems, municipalities, and a number of organizations or arrangements specified in statute. The bill adds the Police Athletic League of Stamford, Inc., a Stamford-based nonprofit youth activities organization, to the list of exempted service providers. By law, all license-exempt entities and organizations must notify participating children's parents or guardians that they are not licensed by OEC to provide child care services (CGS § 19a-77(c)).

Public Act 23-208 An Act Making Certain Revisions to the Education Statutes.

Section 1 of this act, effective July 1, 2024, allows a child who has not reached the age of five on or before the first day of September of the school year to be admitted (1) upon a written request by the parent or guardian of such child to the principal of the school in which such child would be enrolled, and (2) following an assessment of such child, conducted by such principal and an appropriate certified staff member of the school, to ensure that admitting such child is developmentally appropriate.