



Agency Legislative Proposal - 2020 Session

Document Name: Office of Early Childhood Legislative Proposals.doc

(If submitting electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611_SDE_TechRevisions)

State Agency: Office of Early Childhood

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Lead agency division requesting this proposal: Various

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal: Maggie Adair, Michael Curley, Debra Johnson, Linda Bamonte, Alice Ridgway

Title of Proposal: AAC Revisions to Statutes of Early Childhood

Statutory Reference: Various

Section 1: Prohibit an individual eighteen years of age or older and seeking employment in a licensed group child care home or center from beginning work until that individual's FBI criminal background check is cleared. (Effective October 1, 2020.) Amend Sec. 19a-80(c).

Section 2: Change the age of a family child care home household member who must submit to a comprehensive background check from age 16 to 18. Amend Sec. 19a-87b(c).

Section 3: Require all licensed youth camp staff age 18 and older to submit to a comprehensive background check. (Effective October 1, 2020.) Amend Sec. 19a-421(b) and Sec. 10-530(a).

Section 4: Exempt students matriculated in a planned program of study leading to a degree in early childhood concentration and/or individuals who volunteer in child care facilities and youth camps from the \$75 state fingerprinting fee. Amend Sec. 29-11(c).

Section 5: Provide the Commissioner the authority to waive fingerprints for individuals medically unavailable due to a variety of medical conditions. Amend Sec. 10-530(d).

Section 6: Remove programs administered by a nationally chartered Boys and Girls Club, Solar Youth, Inc., Cardinal Sheehan Center, Organized Parents Make a Difference, and Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership, Inc. from the listed of licensed exempt programs. Amend Sec. 19a-77 – repeal (7) (9) (11) (12) (13) and Sec. 19a-420(1).



Section 7: Delete reference to “Nurturing Families Network” and replace with a new reference; update the purpose of Connecticut’s home visiting system. Amend Sec. 17b-751b.

Section 8: Delete reference to “Nurturing Families Network” and replace with a new reference; delete references to (B) Family Empowerment Initiative; (D) Family School Connection, (E) support services for residents of a respite group home for girls; and (F) volunteer services. Amend Sec. 17b-751d.

Section 9: Permit the Commissioner of Education, upon request of the Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood, to allow any individual who holds an endorsement in the areas of 1) comprehensive special education, 2) partially sighted, 3) blind, 4) deaf and hard of hearing, 5) integrated early childhood and special education for students in nursery through grade 9, to teach infants and toddlers beginning at birth in the CT Birth to Three System. Amend Sec. 10-145d.

10. Clarify that a person who may be a subject to a civil penalty for operating a youth camp without a license has the right to an administrative hearing in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 54 of the General Statutes. Amend Sec. 19a-425.

PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

◇ Reason for Proposal

Please consider the following, if applicable:

- (1) *Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary?*
- (2) *Has this proposal or something similar been implemented in other states? If yes, what is the outcome(s)?*
- (3) *Have certain constituencies called for this action?*
- (4) *What would happen if this was not enacted in law this session?*

Section 1: Prohibit an individual eighteen years of age or older and seeking employment in a group child care home or center from beginning work until that individual’s FBI criminal background check is cleared. (Effective October 1, 2020.) Amend Sec. 19a-80(c). RATIONALE: This would bring Connecticut into compliance with federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) requirements regarding background checks for all licensed centers, group homes and license-exempt programs receiving CCDF Funds.

Section 2: Change the age of a family child care home household member who must submit to a comprehensive background check from age 16 to 18. Amend Sec. 19a-87b(c). RATIONALE: This would align with Connecticut’s raise the age policy. Since juvenile records are currently sealed, information cannot be released to the OEC, and therefore, a background check has little value.

Section 3: Require all licensed youth camp staff age 18 and older to submit to a comprehensive background check. (Effective October 1, 2020.) Amend Sec. 19a-421(b) and Sec. 10-530(a). RATIONALE: Background checks are an essential safeguard to protect the health and safety of children. This would



align background check policy with licensed family child care homes, group child care homes, and child care centers.

Section 4: Exempt students matriculated in a planned program of study leading to a degree in early childhood concentration, and/or individuals who volunteer in child care facilities and youth camps from the \$75 state fingerprinting fee. Amend Sec. 29-11(c). RATIONALE: This would grant fee exemptions for students pursuing a degree in early care and education and working as a student in child care settings, and volunteers working in child care settings. This exemption would ease the financial burden for students attending college for early care and education studies about to enter a workforce that is vastly underpaid. It would also ease the financial burden for volunteers who are not paid for their service.

Section 5: Provide the Commissioner the authority to waive fingerprints for individuals medically unavailable due to a variety of medical conditions. Amend Sec. 10-530(d). RATIONALE: Occasional cases exist in which it is medically impossible to obtain fingerprints from individuals with specific medical conditions. By allowing the Commissioner the authority to waive fingerprints for individuals with such medical challenges, the Commissioner will have the opportunity to review each situation, ensuring that proper medical documentation is given regarding such conditions that make it impossible to obtain a fingerprint. The language is modeled after language from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Section 6: Remove programs administered by a nationally chartered Boys and Girls Club, Solar Youth, Inc., Cardinal Sheehan Center, Organized Parents Make a Difference, and Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership, Inc. from the listed of licensed exempt programs. Amend Sec. 19a-77 – repeal (7) (9) (11) (12) (13) and Sec. 19a-420(1). RATIONALE: This would remove exemptions for which no clear criteria has been given regarding the purpose of such exemptions, and to ensure that children in these programs are protected and receiving safe care.

Section 7: Delete reference to “Nurturing Families Network” and replace with a new reference; update the purpose of Connecticut’s home visiting system. Amend Sec. 17b-751b. RATIONALE: Rather than focusing on one particular model, known as Nurturing Families Network, the OEC is now approaching home visiting services holistically through several evidence-based models. The amended purpose of home visiting is updated to reflect current policy and practice.

Section 8: Delete reference to “Nurturing Families Network” and replace with a new reference; delete references to (B) Family Empowerment Initiative; (D) Family School Connection, (E) support services for residents of a respite group home for girls; and (F) volunteer services. Amend Sec. 17b-751d. RATIONALE: Rather than focusing on one particular model, known as Nurturing Families Network, the OEC is now approaching home visiting services holistically through several evidence-based models. The other programs in Sections (B), (D), (E) and (F) no longer exist.



Section 9: Permit the Commissioner of Education, upon request of the Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood, to allow any individual who holds an endorsement in the areas of 1) comprehensive special education, 2) partially sighted, 3) blind, 4) deaf and hard of hearing, 5) integrated early childhood and special education for students in nursery through grade 9, to teach infants and toddlers beginning at birth in the CT Birth to Three System. Amend Sec. 10-145d. RATIONALE: The Birth to Three System is experiencing a severe shortage of teachers qualified to work with families of infants and toddlers with disabilities, in part due to an increase in referrals. Teachers working in Birth to Three are currently considered to be working under their certification only if they hold the #112 endorsement - Integrated Early Childhood/Special Education, Birth-Kindergarten. Consideration of other endorsements for teachers who have the appropriate skills to work in Birth to Three would help alleviate this shortage. In addition, Birth to Three has a mandatory comprehensive system of personnel development for all staff based on trainings and successful completion of exams that further supports the knowledge and skills necessary to use evidence-based practices in Birth to Three.

10. Clarify that a person who may be a subject to a civil penalty for operating a youth camp without a license has the right to an administrative hearing in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 54 of the General Statutes. Amend Sec. 19a-425. RATIONALE: There is no current statutory language that provides the right to an administrative hearing for these parties. This change would align with providing the right to an administrative hearing for licensed family child care homes, group child care homes and child care centers.

Origin of Proposal **New Proposal** **Resubmission**

If this is a resubmission, please share:

- (1) *What was the reason this proposal did not pass, or if applicable, was not included in the Administration's package?*
- (2) *Have there been negotiations/discussions during or after the previous legislative session to improve this proposal?*
- (3) *Who were the major stakeholders/advocates/legislators involved in the previous work on this legislation?*
- (4) *What was the last action taken during the past legislative session?*

[Click here to enter text.](#)

PROPOSAL IMPACT

AGENCIES AFFECTED *(please list for each affected agency)*

Agency Name: Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Cynthia Isales, Director of Legal Services, 860- and Scott Devico, Legislative Liaison, 203-525-6959
Date Contacted: We plan to email proposed language in Sections 2,3,4, and 5 to Cynthia Isales and Scott Devico.

Approve of Proposal **YES** **NO** **Talks Ongoing**



<p>Summary of Affected Agency's Comments Click here to enter text.</p>
<p>Will there need to be further negotiation? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
<p>Agency Name: State Department of Education Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Laura Stefon, Chief of Staff, Legislative Liaison, 860-713-6493 Date Contacted: Email was sent to Christopher Todd 10/22 regarding scheduling a meeting to discuss the proposal. Laura Stefon replied to OEC and said SDE would be happy to review any proposal that OEC would bring forward.</p>
<p>Approve of Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing</p>
<p>Summary of Affected Agency's Comments Click here to enter text.</p>
<p>Will there need to be further negotiation? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Unclear, there was no response.</p>

◇ **FISCAL IMPACT** (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact)

<p>Municipal (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation) None</p>
<p>State If Section 1 is not enacted, the Office of Early Childhood would be out of compliance and subject to a corrective action plan and a partial loss of federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) dollars.</p>
<p>Federal</p>
<p>Additional notes on fiscal impact Click here to enter text.</p>

◇ **POLICY and PROGRAMMATIC IMPACTS** (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)

<p>Click here to enter text.</p>
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Insert fully drafted bill here

Section 1. Sec. 19a-80

(c) The commissioner, within available appropriations, shall require each prospective employee of a child care center or group child care home [who is eighteen years of age or older](#) in a position requiring the provision of care to a child, [or involving unsupervised access to any child, in such child care center or group child care home](#), to submit to comprehensive background checks, including state and national criminal history records checks. The criminal history records checks required pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with section 29-17a. The commissioner shall also request a check of the state child abuse registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k. The Department of Social Services may agree to transfer funds appropriated for criminal history records checks to the Office of Early Childhood. The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall notify each licensee of the provisions of this subsection. [No such prospective employee who is eighteen years of age or older shall begin work in a position requiring the provision of care to children in the child care center or group child care home until satisfactory clearance of a national criminal records check has been confirmed by the Office of Early Childhood.](#) No such prospective employee [who is eighteen years of age or older](#) shall have unsupervised access to children in the child care center or group child care home until such comprehensive background check is completed and the Commissioner of Early Childhood permits such prospective employee to work in such child care center or group child care home.

Section 2. Sec. 19a-87b

(c) The commissioner, within available appropriations, shall require each initial applicant or prospective employee of a family child care home in a position requiring the provision of care to a child, including an assistant or substitute staff member and each household member who is ~~[sixteen]~~ [eighteen](#) years of age or older, to submit to comprehensive background checks, including state and national criminal history records checks. The criminal history records checks required pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with section 29-17a. The commissioner shall also request a check of the state child abuse registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k. The commissioner shall notify each licensee of the provisions of this subsection. For purposes of this subsection, "household member" means any person, other than the person who is licensed to conduct, operate or maintain a family child care home, who resides in the family child care home, such as the licensee's spouse or children, tenants and any other occupant.

Section 3. Sec. 19a-421. (Formerly Sec. 19-540). License required. Qualifications. Duration of validity. Fees. Comprehensive background checks.

(a) No person shall establish, conduct or maintain a youth camp without a license issued by the office. Applications for such license shall be made in writing at least thirty days prior to the opening of the youth camp on forms provided and in accordance with procedures established by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by a fee of eight hundred fifteen dollars or, if the applicant is a nonprofit, nonstock corporation or association, a fee of three hundred fifteen dollars or, if the applicant is a day camp affiliated with a nonprofit organization, for no more than five days duration and for which labor and materials are donated, no



fee. All such licenses shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance unless surrendered for cancellation or suspended or revoked by the commissioner for violation of this chapter or any regulations adopted under section 19a-428 and shall be renewable upon payment of an eight-hundred-fifteen-dollar license fee or, if the licensee is a nonprofit, nonstock corporation or association, a three-hundred-fifteen-dollar license fee or, if the applicant is a day camp affiliated with a nonprofit organization, for no more than five days duration and for which labor and materials are donated, no fee.

(b) The commissioner, within available appropriations, shall require each prospective employee of a youth camp who is eighteen years of age or older in a position requiring the provision of care to a child, or involving unsupervised access to any child in such youth camp, to submit to comprehensive background checks, including state and national criminal history records checks. The criminal history records checks required pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with section 29-17a. The commissioner shall also request a check of the state child abuse registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k. The Department of Social Services may agree to transfer funds appropriated for criminal history records checks to the Office of Early Childhood. The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall notify each licensee of the provisions of this subsection. No such prospective employee shall begin work in a position requiring the provision of care to children in the youth camp until satisfactory clearance of a national criminal records check has been confirmed by the Office of Early Childhood. No such prospective employee shall have unsupervised access to children in the youth camp until such comprehensive background check is completed and the Commissioner of Early Childhood permits such prospective employee to work in such youth camp.

Sec. 10-530

(a) As used in this section: (1) "Child care facility" means a "child care center", "group child care home" or "family child care home" that provides "child care services", each as described in section 19a-77, or any provider of child care services under the child care subsidy program established pursuant to section 17b-749, as amended by this act;

(2) "Child care services provider or staff member" means any person who is (A) a licensee, employee, volunteer or alternate staff, assistant, substitute or household member of a child care facility, (B) a family child care provider, or (C) any other person who provides child care services under the child care subsidy program established pursuant to section 17b-749, as amended by this act, but does not include a person who is providing child care services under the child care subsidy program (i) exclusively to children with whom such person is related, and (ii) without being issued a license to provide child care services by the Office of Early Childhood; [and]

(3) "Family child care provider" means any person who provides child care services under the child care subsidy program established pursuant to section 17b-749, as amended by this act, (A) in a family child care home, as defined in section 19a-77, or (B) in a home not requiring a license pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 19a-77[.] and

(4) "Youth camp" shall have the same meaning as used in section 19a-420.

(b) The comprehensive background checks required pursuant to subsection (c) of section 19a-80, subsection (c) of section 19a-87b, [and] subsection (a) of section 17b-749k, and subsection (b) of section 19a-421 shall be



conducted at least once every five years for each child care services provider or staff member in accordance with the provisions of 45 CFR 98.43, as amended from time to time.

(c) Any person who applies for a position at a child care facility [or youth camp](#) in the state shall not be required to submit to such comprehensive background checks if such person (1) is an employee, [volunteer, or household member](#) of a child care facility in the state, or has not been separated from [\[employment\] association](#) as a child care services provider or staff member in the state for a period of more than one hundred eighty days, and (2) has successfully completed such comprehensive background checks in the previous five years. Nothing in this section prohibits the Commissioner of Early Childhood from requiring that a person applying for a position as a child care services provider or staff member submit to comprehensive background checks more than once during a five-year period.

Section 4. Sec. 29-11.

(c) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall charge the following fees for the service indicated: (1) Name search, thirty-six dollars; (2) fingerprint search, seventy-five dollars; (3) personal record search, seventy-five dollars; (4) letters of good conduct search, seventy-five dollars; (5) bar association search, seventy-five dollars; (6) fingerprinting, fifteen dollars; (7) criminal history record information search, seventy-five dollars. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any federal, state or municipal agency. [The fee for fingerprint searches for students matriculated in an Associate or Bachelor degree planned program of study leading to a degree with an early childhood concentration, and/or individuals who volunteer in child care facilities or youth camps shall be waived.](#)

Section 5. Sec. 10-530

[\(d\) An individual required to submit to a comprehensive background check pursuant to subsection \(c\) of section 19a-80, subsection \(c\) of section 19a-87b, \[and\] subsection \(a\) of section 17b-749k, or subsection \(b\) of section 19a-421 may request a waiver of the requirement to submit fingerprints from the Commissioner of Early Childhood if the applicant is unable to provide fingerprints because of a medical condition including but not limited to birth defects, physical deformities, skin conditions, and psychiatric conditions. The Office of Early Childhood shall conduct a search of state and national criminal records based on the name and date of birth of any individual who is granted a waiver of the requirement to submit fingerprints.](#)

Section 6. Sec. 19a-77. "Child care services" defined. Exclusions. Additional license. (a) As used in this section and sections 19a-77a to 19a-80, inclusive, and sections 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive, "child care services" includes:

- (1) A "child care center" which offers or provides a program of supplementary care to more than twelve related or unrelated children outside their own homes on a regular basis;
- (2) A "group child care home" which offers or provides a program of supplementary care (A) to not less than seven or more than twelve related or unrelated children on a regular basis, or (B) that meets the definition of a family child care home except that it operates in a facility other than a private family home;
- (3) A "family child care home" which consists of a private family home caring for not more than six children, including the provider's own children not in school full time, where the children are cared for not less than three or more than twelve hours during a twenty-four-hour period and where care is given on a regularly



recurring basis except that care may be provided in excess of twelve hours but not more than seventy-two consecutive hours to accommodate a need for extended care or intermittent short-term overnight care. During the regular school year, a maximum of three additional children who are in school full time, including the provider's own children, shall be permitted, except that if the provider has more than three children who are in school full time, all of the provider's children shall be permitted. During the summer months when regular school is not in session, a maximum of three additional children who are otherwise enrolled in school full time, including the provider's own children, shall be permitted if there is an assistant or substitute staff member approved by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, pursuant to section 19a-87b, present and assisting the provider, except that (A) if the provider has more than three such additional children who are the provider's own children, all of the provider's own children shall be permitted, and (B) such approved assistant or substitute staff member shall not be required if all of such additional children are the provider's own children;

(4) "Night care" means the care provided for one or more hours between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.;

(5) "Year-round" program means a program open at least fifty weeks per year.

(b) For licensing requirement purposes, child care services shall not include such services which are:

(1) (A) Administered by a public school system, or (B) administered by a municipal agency or department;

(2) Administered by a private school which is in compliance with section 10-188 and is approved by the State Board of Education or is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of Education, provided the provision of such child care services by the private school is only to those children whose ages are covered under such approval or accreditation;

(3) Classes in music, dance, drama and art that are no longer than two hours in length; classes that teach a single skill that are no longer than two hours in length; library programs that are no longer than two hours in length; scouting; programs that offer exclusively sports activities; rehearsals; academic tutoring programs; or programs exclusively for children thirteen years of age or older;

(4) Informal arrangements among neighbors and formal or informal arrangements among relatives in their own homes, provided the relative is limited to any of the following degrees of kinship by blood, marriage or court order to the child being cared for: Grandparent, great-grandparent, sibling, aunt or uncle;

(5) Supplementary child care operations for educational or recreational purposes and the child receives such care infrequently where the parents are on the premises;

(6) Supplementary child care operations in retail establishments where the parents remain in the same store as the child for retail shopping, provided the drop-in supplementary child-care operation does not charge a fee and does not refer to itself as a child care center;

[(7) Administered by a nationally chartered boys' and girls' club that are exclusively for school-age children;]

[7] [(8)] Religious educational activities administered by a religious institution exclusively for children whose parents or legal guardians are members of such religious institution;

[(9) Administered by Solar Youth, Inc., a New Haven-based nonprofit youth development and environmental education organization;]

[8] [(10)] Programs administered by organizations under contract with the Department of Social Services pursuant to section 17b-851a that promote the reduction of teenage pregnancy through the provision of services to persons who are ten to nineteen years of age, inclusive;

[(11) Administered by the Cardinal Shehan Center, a Bridgeport-based nonprofit organization that is exclusively for school-age children exclusively for school-age children; or]

[(12) Administered by Organized Parents Make a Difference, Inc., a Hartford-based nonprofit organization that



is exclusively for school-age children.]

(c) Any entity or organization that provides services or a program described in subsection (b) of this section shall inform the parents and legal guardians of any children receiving such services or enrolled in such programs that such entity or organization is not licensed by the Office of Early Childhood to provide such services or offer such program.

(d) No registrant or licensee of any child care services as defined in subsection (a) of this section shall be issued an additional registration or license to provide any such services at the same facility.

(e) When a licensee has vacated premises approved by the office for the provision of child care services and the landlord of such licensee establishes to the satisfaction of the office that such licensee has no legal right or interest to such approved premises, the office may make a determination with respect to an application for a new license for the provision of child care services at such premises.

Sec. 19a-420. (Formerly Sec. 19-539). Definitions. As used in this chapter:

(1) "Youth camp" means any regularly scheduled program or organized group activity advertised as a camp or operated only during school vacations or on weekends by a person, partnership, corporation, association, the state or a municipal agency for recreational or educational purposes and accommodating for profit or under philanthropic or charitable auspices five or more children, who are at least three years of age and under sixteen years of age, who are (A) not bona fide personal guests in the private home of an individual, and (B) living apart from their relatives, parents or legal guardian, for a period of three days or more per week or portions of three or more days per week, provided any such relative, parent or guardian who is an employee of such camp shall not be considered to be in the position of loco parentis to such employee's child for the purposes of this chapter, but does not include (i) classroom-based summer instructional programs operated by any person, provided no activities that may pose a health risk or hazard to participating children are conducted at such programs, (ii) public schools, or private schools in compliance with section 10-188 and approved by the State Board of Education or accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of Education, which operate a summer educational program, or (iii) licensed child care centers [, or (iv) drop-in programs for children who are at least six years of age administered by a nationally chartered boys' and girls' club];

Section 7. Sec. 17b-751b. (Formerly Sec. 17a-56). [Nurturing Families Network] New Name TBD . (a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish the structure for a state-wide system for a [Nurturing Families Network] New Name TBD, which demonstrates the benefits of preventive services by significantly reducing the abuse and neglect of infants and young children and by enhancing parent-child relationships through [hospital-based] community-based assessment with home outreach follow-up on infants and young children and their families within families identified as high risk.

(b) The commissioner shall: (1) [Develop the comprehensive risk assessment to be used by the Nurturing Families Network's providers] insure all home visiting programs are one or more of the evidence-based home visiting models that meet federal Health and Human Services criteria for evidence of effectiveness; (2) [develop the training program, standards, and protocols for the pilot programs] provide oversight to home visiting programs to insure model fidelity; and (3) develop, issue and evaluate requests for proposals to procure the services required by this section. In evaluating the proposals, the commissioner shall take into consideration the



most effective and consistent service delivery system allowing for the continuation of current public and private programs.

(c) The commissioner shall establish a data system to enable the programs to document the following information in a standard manner: (1) The level of screening and assessment; (2) profiles of risk and family demographics; (3) the incidence of child abuse and neglect; (4) rates of child development; and (5) any other information the commissioner deems appropriate.

(d) The commissioner shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the establishment, implementation and progress of the [Nurturing Families Network] [New Name TBD](#), on July first of each year.

(e) The commissioner may expend an amount not to exceed two per cent of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section in a manner consistent with the provisions of section 10-509.

Section 8. Sec. 17b-751d. Office of Early Childhood designated as state agency responsible for programs and activities to prevent child abuse and neglect.

The Office of Early Childhood shall be the lead state agency for community-based, prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect. The responsibilities of the office shall include, but not be limited to, collaborating with state agencies, hospitals, clinics, schools and community service organizations, to: (1) Initiate programs to support families at risk for child abuse or neglect; (2) assist organizations to recognize child abuse and neglect; (3) encourage community safety; (4) increase broad-based efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect; (5) create a network of agencies to advance child abuse and neglect prevention; and (6) increase public awareness of child abuse and neglect issues. The office, subject to available state, federal and private funding, shall be responsible for implementing and maintaining programs and services, including, but not limited to: (A) [The Nurturing Families Network] [New Name TBD](#), established pursuant to subsection (a) of section 17b-751b; (B) [Family Empowerment Initiative programs; (C)] Help Me Grow; [(D) Family School Connection; (E) support services for residents of a respite group home for girls; (F) volunteer services; (G)] [\(C\)](#) family development training; [(H)] [\(D\)](#) shaken baby syndrome prevention; and [(I)] [\(E\)](#) child sexual abuse prevention.

Section 9. Section 10-145d

[\(g\) The Commissioner of Education may permit, upon a request from the Commissioner of Early Childhood, any person who holds an endorsement in the areas of \(1\) comprehensive special education; \(2\) partially sighted; \(3\) blind; \(4\) deaf and hard of hearing; \(5\) integrated early childhood and special education for students in nursery through grade three, to teach within the Birth-to-three program established pursuant to section 17a-248b. Such permission shall be valid for a period of five years and may be renewed by the Commissioner of Education upon request from the Commissioner of Early Childhood.](#)



Section 10. Sec. 19a-425. (Formerly Sec. 19-544). Penalty. Equitable relief. Notice and hearing.

(a) Any person or officer of an association, organization or corporation who establishes, conducts or maintains a youth camp without a license as required by this chapter for a first offense shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars, and for a second or subsequent offense shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than one thousand five hundred dollars, and each day during which a youth camp is conducted or maintained without a license, after notification to such person by the commissioner, shall constitute a separate offense. The commissioner may apply to the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford, or for the judicial district where the defendant named in such application resides, for an injunction to restrain the operation or maintenance of a youth camp by any person other than a licensed operator. The application for such injunction or the issuance of the same shall be in addition to and shall not relieve any such person from the imposition of a civil penalty under this section. In connection with any such application for an injunction, it shall not be necessary to prove that an adequate remedy at law does not exist.

(b) If the Commissioner of Early Childhood has reason to believe that a violation has occurred for which a civil penalty is authorized by subsection (a) of this section, he or she may send to such person or officer by certified mail, return receipt requested, or personally serve upon such person or officer, a notice which shall include: (1) a reference to the section or sections of the general statutes or regulations involved; (2) a short and plain statement of the matters asserted or charged; (3) a statement of the maximum civil penalty which may be imposed for such violation; and (4) a statement of the party's right to request a hearing, such request to be submitted in writing to the commissioner not later than thirty days after the notice is mailed or served.

(c) If such person or officer so requests, the commissioner shall cause a hearing to be held. The hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. If such person or officer fails to request a hearing or fails to appear at the hearing or if, after the hearing, the commissioner finds that the person or officer has committed such violation, the commissioner may, in his or her discretion, order that a civil penalty be imposed that is not greater than the penalty stated in the notice. The commissioner shall send a copy of any order issued pursuant to this subsection by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the person or officer named in such order.