



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood

Document Name	Office of Early Childhood Legislative Proposals
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Legislative Liaison	Maggie Adair maggie.adair@ct.gov 860-878-8936
Division Requesting This Proposal	Early Care and Education, Licensing, Legal, Commissioner's Office
Drafter	Maggie Adair, Liz Proietti, Cynthia Watts-Elder, Kristen Dudanowicz, Deb Flis, Margaret Gustafson, Marybeth Miller

Title of Proposal	ACC the Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood
Statutory Reference, if any	Various
Brief Summary and Statement of Purpose	<p>Section 1: Designated Qualified Staff Member (DQSM) – Section 10-550g – Make technical changes to Section 31 of Sec. 24-78. These technical changes will clarify when and how new requirements set forth in the law will affect state-funded early childhood education providers. These changes are necessary to avoid confusion and/or burdens for these providers as they come into compliance with Early Start CT's new requirements.</p> <p>Section 2: Youth Camp Licensing – Section 19a-421 – Clarify that licenses are non-transferable.</p> <p>Section 3: Youth Camp Licensing – Sec. 19a-420 – Clarify the definition of "Youth Camp," "Day Camp," and "Resident Camp."</p> <p>Section 4: B-3 Interagency Coordinating Council – Section 17a-248b – Amend terminology, clarify that state agency designated member roles are not subject to term limits.</p>



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood

	<p>Section 5: Early Childhood Cabinet – Section 10-16z – Remove report requirement to reduce duplication.</p> <p>Section 6: Early Start CT – Section 10-550d – Change the reference in from plural to singular.</p> <p>Section 7: Early Start CT – Section 10-550c – Change the effective date in from 2025 to 2027.</p> <p>Section 8: Early Start CT – Local Governance Partner – Section 10-550b – Amend the Local Governance Partner (LGP) administrative set-aside funding language to provide the Commissioner discretion to determine administrative funding amounts, within available appropriations.</p>
How does this proposal relate to the agency's mission?	<p>These proposals relate to the agency's mission in several ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provide clear guidance on degree requirements and quality improvement steps for the state-funded early care and education workforce;• establishment of Local Governance Partners under Early Start CT to replace current School Readiness Council underscores the agency's commitment to community and parent voice;• promote the health and safety of children in child care and youth camp settings;• support the Birth to Three programs to better serve children, families, and providers serving those families.



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood

SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY

Summarize sections in groups where appropriate

Section 1:

Designated Qualified Staff Member (DQSM) – Section 10-550g – Clarify that the effective date of new requirements in P.A. 24-78, Sec. 31, is July 1, 2025.

Rationale: P.A. 24-78, Sec. 31, specifies that the effective date of the new requirements is July 1, 2025, except in one instance, which indicates the effective date is July 1, 2024. To avoid confusion caused by two conflicting dates, it is important to make that the new Designated Qualified Staff Member (DQSM) requirements—and the 25% phase-in for centers, group homes, and license-exempt programs—go into effect July 1, 2025.

Section 1:

Designated Qualified Staff Member (DQSM) – Section 10-550g – Make language on degree requirements for family child care homes (FCCs) consistent throughout the legislation.

Rationale: Most mentions of degree requirements in P.A. 24-78, Sec. 31, for family child care homes state: “associate degree or higher.” At the end of P.A. 24-78, Sec. 31, the language changes to “associate degree or bachelor’s degree.” Keeping references for degree requirements consistent as “associate degree or higher” will clarify expectations for the department and field.

Section 1:

Designated Qualified Staff Member (DQSM) – Section 10-550g – Clarify language about who can supervise educators by setting.

Rationale: These changes aim to provide clarity on how the supervision language in Early Start CT applies to different types of early childhood programs. In the current language, references to “on-site” and “off-site” supervision are confusing for providers. For example:

- Early Start CT makes provisions for both on-site and off-site supervisors of educators in some roles. However, supervision where the supervisor comes from an off-site location is specific to family child care homes—where the



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood

owner/director also serves as the lead teacher by regulation, on site—and is not intended to apply to other settings. The proposal makes clear that the supervisor isn't a "DQSM," since FCCs only have one staff member who is designated as the qualified staff member, but rather this supervisor meet the bachelor's level requirements.

- "On-site supervision" pertains to staff in centers, group homes, and license-exempt early childhood programs (not family child care homes) who hold an associate degree can count as a designated qualified staff member, but only if they are supervised by another staff who meets the qualified staff member requirements at the bachelor's degree level. This supervisor must work on-site at the same program. The on-site distinction is important for centers that have multiple sites, to make clear that the supervisor cannot be in a central office or work at another site and thus distant from the educator they are supervising. The proposal clarifies that the supervisor can be staff in either a teacher or administrator role.

Section 1: Designated Qualified Staff Member (DQSM) – Section 10-550g – After 2035, the designated qualified staff member in family child care homes (the owner) must hold an associate degree or higher in early childhood education.

Rationale: Section 10-5550g (P.A. 24-78, Sec. 31), only specifies that from July 1, 2035, onward, the DQSM for a family childcare home shall have achieved or be working toward an associate degree or higher in early childhood education. This change would set a date of July 1, 2035, by which family childcare DQSM's are no longer working toward a degree, but must hold that degree. This technical change provides needed guidance for a goal end date by which the owner of a family child care home should hold a degree, supporting the purpose of the legislation's initial intent of working toward a degree.

Section 2:

Youth Camp Licensing – Section 19a-421 – Clarify that licenses are non-transferable.

Rationale: The addition of the non-transferability language brings the youth camp statute into alignment with the statutes and regulations governing all other licenses issued by OEC. Non-transferability language protects the health and safety of children attending camp by ensuring that the business or individual to which the license was



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood

issued is the actual operator of the youth camp, that different businesses cannot operate youth camps under one license simultaneously, and that the youth camp can only be operated at one location.

The addition of the non-transferability language has particular importance as OEC has begun to encounter situations with sports camps, which will often operate at colleges, universities, and private schools that have multiple sports facilities available such as fields, pools, gymnasiums, and courts. One company is obtaining one license to operate an unspecified sports camp at one location but effectively allowing multiple companies to operate separate sports camps under its one license simultaneously. When OEC arrives at the location to conduct an inspection or an investigation, licensing specialists find separate and distinct sports camps being operated by different companies, all of which are unaware of one another but which all claim use of the one license issued to the initial operator. In such circumstances, each camp has its own staff and director, again unknown to the other camps, most of whom have not completed background checks.

The non-transferability language would also address situations with sports camps which effectively travel from location to location with one license in order to operate a sports camp in different parts of the state during different weeks.

In addition, language has been added to make clear that in addition to a renewal fee, an application must be submitted to renew a license.

Section 3:

Youth Camp Licensing – Sec. 19a-420 – Clarify the definition of “Youth Camp,” “Day Camp,” and “Resident Camp.”

Rationale: There are currently three definitions in the statutes concerning youth camps to define a youth camp. The overarching definition is “youth camp,” and then resident camp and day camp is further defined. Both the resident camp and day camp definitions include “on any parcel or parcels of land on which there are located dwelling units or buildings intended to accommodate five or more children who are at least three years of age and under sixteen years of age,”; however, the definition of “youth camp” does not include this language. Removing it from the definitions of resident camp and day camp and inserting similar language in the definition of youth camp more clearly defines the overall meaning of youth camp.



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood

Section 4:

B-3 Interagency Coordinating Council – Section – 17a-248b – Update terminology; clarify that state agency designated member roles are not subject to term limits.

Rationale: Replace “minority parents” with “parents representing culturally diverse communities” to reflect updated policy practice. Allow individuals in a(5) to serve for more than two consecutive terms. These individuals are designated with specific roles within their agencies and need to remain on the Council due to the ongoing role and responsibilities of their position and to be able to contribute their expertise.

Section 5:

Early Childhood Cabinet – Section 10-16z – Remove report requirement to reduce duplication.

Rationale: Remove (3) which requires the submission of an annual strategic plan to the legislature. The OEC has developed a Blue Ribbon 5-year strategic plan to develop an equitable, high-quality, and sustainable system that ensures that every child has a quality educational foundation that will prepare them to grow, learn, and succeed. The OEC is following and tracking progress on the Blue Ribbon plan. The annual plan due by December 1, annually, will document the progress made on the components in the federal Head Start Act of 2007 and how the Blue Ribbon plan work aligns with those components.

Section 6:

Early Start CT – Section 10-550d – Change the effective date in from 2025 to 2027.

Rationale: This is a technical change to correct an oversight in original drafting.

Section 7:

Early Start CT – Section 10-550c – Change the reference from plural to singular.

Rationale: One local governance partner is allowed to be established in either a community or a region. This clarifies that multiple local or regional governance partners in a community or region are not allowed.

Section 8:

Early Start CT – Local Governance Partner – Section 10-550b – Amend the Local Governance Partner (LGP) administrative set-aside funding language.



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood

Rationale: This language provides the Commissioner discretion to determine administrative funding amounts, within available appropriations.

BACKGROUND

Origin of Proposal ☒ New Proposal ☐ Resubmission

Please consider the following, if applicable:

Have there been changes in federal/state laws or regulations that make this legislation necessary?	
Has this proposal or a similar proposal been implemented in other states? If yes, to what result?	
Have certain constituencies called for this proposal?	Regarding the Qualified Staff Member proposal, the OEC has received questions and confusion among providers about which requirements apply to them, and when they go into effect. This proposal seeks to address this confusion and provide greater clarity to the constituencies of providers impacted by these changes. School Readiness Councils and liaisons have requested for sufficient and equitable funding to be set aside for administrative



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood

	costs of overseeing the work. This proposal does not commit to additional funding but does not provide the OEC Commissioner the discretion to determine funding amounts.
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INTERAGENCY IMPACT

List each affected agency. Copy the table as needed.

1. Agency Name	State Department of Education
Agency Contact (name, title)	Laura Stefon, Chief of Staff
Date Contacted	10/2/24
Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing
Open Issues, if any	

2. Agency Name	Department of Social Services
Agency Contact (name, title)	David Seifel, Government Relations Manager
Date Contacted	10/2/24
Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing
Open Issues, if any	

3. Agency Name	Department of Children and Families
Agency Contact (name, title)	Michael Caron, Legislative Program Manager
Date Contacted	10/2/24
Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing
Open Issues, if any	

4. Agency Name	Department of Public Health
Agency Contact (name, title)	Adam Skowera, Legislative Liaison
Date Contacted	10/2/24
Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing
Open Issues, if any	None.

5. Agency Name	Department of Insurance
Agency Contact (name, title)	Jim Carson, Communications and Legislative Program Manager
Date Contacted	10/2/24
Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing
Open Issues, if any	



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood

FISCAL IMPACT

Include the section number(s) responsible for the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact

[X] Check here if this proposal does NOT have a fiscal impact

State	No Fiscal Impact.
Municipal (Include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)	No Fiscal Impact.
Federal	No Fiscal Impact.
Additional notes	

MONITORING & EVALUATION PLAN

If applicable, please describe the anticipated measurable outcomes and the data that will be used to track those outcomes. Include the section number(s) responsible for those outcomes

[X] Check here if this proposal does NOT lead to any measurable outcomes

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ANYTHING ELSE WE SHOULD KNOW?

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INSERT FULLY DRAFTED BILL HERE

Section 1: Section 10-550g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) As used in this section:

"Office of Early Childhood funded early care and education program" means an early care and education program that accepts state funds directly from the office or indirectly through office subcontractors, for any combination of infant, toddler, and preschool, and any before and after school that includes those age groups, but does not include the child care subsidy program established pursuant to section 17b-749 of the general statutes.

"Designated staff member" means the person assigned the primary responsibility for a classroom of children in an Office of Early Childhood funded early care and education program.

"Designated qualified staff member" means a designated staff member who possesses at least one of the following:

A bachelor's degree or higher with a concentration in early childhood education from an institution of higher education that is (i) regionally accredited and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, (ii) regionally accredited and working toward achieving accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, or (iii) regionally accredited;

A certificate issued pursuant to section 10-145b of the general statutes with an endorsement in early childhood education or early childhood special education;

Deemed to meet the bachelor's degree requirements by the office without a concentration in early childhood education, but with at least twelve early childhood credits from an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited;

A bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited, without a concentration in early childhood education, but with at least twelve applicable early childhood credits as determined by the office;



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood

Permission from the office if such designated staff member is enrolled in an institution of higher education and engaged in and making progress in an early childhood planned program of study leading to an early childhood bachelor's degree and under supervision according to the criteria in section (b), (c), and (d) below.

(b) When a bachelor's degree designated qualified staff member is not assigned, a person may be deemed a designated qualified staff member if such person possesses at least one of the qualifications included in subsection ([c]d) of this section and is under the supervision of an on-site [bachelor's degree designated qualified] staff member meeting a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education. The supervisor may be a staff member in either a teacher role or administrator role and must work on premises at the program [, except any family child care home provider that accepts state funds shall meet the designated qualified staff member qualifications].

(c) If the Office of Early Childhood funded early care and education program is a family child care home only: When the program's designated qualified staff member falls into the category of working toward an early childhood associate degree or higher, they may be supervised by someone who meets the bachelor's-level DQSM requirements coming from an off-site location to provide coaching at the family child care home. [When a bachelor's degree designated qualified staff member supervises an associate degree designated qualified staff member, the person possessing a bachelor's degree may supervise such associate degree designated qualified staff member at an off-site location.]

(d) The associate degree designated qualified staff member, under the supervision of a bachelor's degree qualified staff member, shall possess at least one of the following:

An associate degree or higher with a concentration in early childhood education from an institution of higher education that is (i) regionally accredited and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, (ii) regionally accredited and working toward achieving accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, or (iii) regionally accredited;

Deemed to meet the associate degree requirements by the office without a concentration in early childhood education, but with at least twelve early childhood credits from an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited;



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood

An associate degree from an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited, without a concentration in early childhood education, but with at least twelve applicable early childhood credits as determined by the office;

Permission from the office if such associate degree designated qualified staff member is enrolled in an institution of higher education and engaged in an early childhood planned program of study leading to an early childhood associate degree.

(F)(d) (1) From July 1, 20~~[24]~~25, to June 30, 2027, inclusive, twenty-five per cent of the designated staff members at each Office of Early Childhood funded early childhood education program shall be designated qualified staff members meeting one of the criteria at the bachelor's degree level. If the Office of Early Childhood funded early care and education program is a family child care home, the designated qualified staff member for such family child care home shall have achieved or be working toward an early childhood associate degree or ~~[bachelor's degree]~~ higher.

(2) From July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2030, inclusive, fifty per cent of the designated qualified members at each Office of Early Childhood funded early childhood education program shall be designated qualified staff members meeting one of the criteria at the bachelor's degree level. If the Office of Early Childhood funded early care and education program is a family child care home, the designated qualified staff member for such family child care home shall have achieved or be working toward an early childhood associate degree or ~~[bachelor's degree]~~ higher.

(3) On and after July 1, 2030, sixty per cent of the designated qualified members at each Office of Early Childhood funded child care program shall be designated qualified staff members meeting one of the criteria at the bachelor's degree level. If the Office of Early Childhood funded early care and education program is a family child care home, the designated qualified staff member for such family child care home shall have achieved or be working toward an early childhood associate degree or ~~[bachelor's degree]~~ higher. On and after July 1, 2035, if the Office of Early Childhood funded early care and education program is a family child care home, the designated qualified staff member for such family child care home shall hold an early childhood associate degree or higher.



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood

Section 2: Section 19a-421 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(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, shall be nontransferable, and shall be renewable upon receipt by the commissioner of a renewal application and 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.

Section 3: Sec. 19a-420. (Formerly Sec. 19-539) of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

(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, conducted on a parcel of land that has dwelling units or buildings intended to accommodate five or more children, 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



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood

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, (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;

(2) "Resident camp" means any youth camp which is established, conducted or maintained **[on any parcel or parcels of land on which there are located dwelling units or buildings intended to accommodate five or more children who are at least three years of age and under sixteen years of age]** for at least seventy-two consecutive hours and in which the campers attending such camps eat and sleep;

(3) "Day camp" means any youth camp which is established, conducted or maintained **[on any parcel or parcels of land on which there are located dwelling units or buildings intended to accommodate five or more children who are at least three years of age and under sixteen years of age]** during daylight hours for at least three days a week with the campers eating and sleeping at home, except for one meal per day, but does not include programs operated by a municipal agency;

Section 4: Sec. 17a-248b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) The lead agency shall establish a State Interagency Birth-to-Three Coordinating Council and shall provide staff assistance and other resources to the council. The council shall consist of the following members, appointed by the Governor: (1) Parents, including **[minority]** parents of children with disabilities twelve years of age or younger representing culturally diverse communities, with knowledge of, or experience with, programs for children with disabilities from birth to thirty-six months of age, the total number of whom shall equal not less than twenty per cent of the total membership of the council, and at least one of whom shall be a parent of a child six years of age or younger, with a disability; (2) two members of the General Assembly at the time of their appointment, one of whom shall be designated by the speaker of the House of Representatives and one of whom shall be designated by the president pro tempore of the Senate; (3) one person involved in the training of personnel who provide early intervention services; (4) one person who is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics; (5) the state



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood

coordinator of education for homeless children and youth, the state coordinator for early childhood special education and one person from each of the participating agencies, except the Department of Education, who shall be designated by the commissioner or executive director of the participating agency and who have authority to engage in policy planning and implementation on behalf of the participating agency; (6) public or private providers of early intervention services, the total number of whom shall equal not less than twenty per cent of the total membership of the council; and (7) a representative of a Head Start program or agency. The Governor shall designate the chairperson of the council who shall not be the designee of the lead agency.

(b) The Governor shall appoint all members of the council for terms of three years. **[No a]**Appointed members of the council in **(a)(1-4) and (6-7)** may serve **no** more than two consecutive terms, except a member may continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

Section 5: Sec. 10-16z of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(c) Within available resources, the Early Childhood Cabinet shall (1) advise the Office of Early Childhood, established pursuant to section [10-500](#), (2) not later than December 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, develop an annual plan of action that assigns the appropriate state agency to complete the tasks specified in the federal Head Start Act of 2007, P.L. 110-134, as amended from time to time **[, and (3) not later than March 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, submit an annual state-wide strategic report, pursuant to said federal Head Start Act, in accordance with the provisions of section [11-4a](#), addressing the progress such agencies have made toward the completion of such tasks outlined under said federal Head Start Act and this subsection to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and human services.]**

Section 6: Section 10-550d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) There shall be established, within available appropriations, **a** local governance partner**[s]** to assist in the provision of early care and education in a community under Early Start CT. A



Agency Legislative Proposal – 2025 Session

Document Name: Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood

town or school district and appropriate representatives of groups or entities interested in early care and education in such town or school district may establish a local governance partner. Two or more towns or school districts and appropriate representatives of groups or entities interested in early care and education in a region may establish a regional governance partner.

Section 7: Section 10-550c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 202~~5~~⁷):

The Office of Early Childhood shall establish a sliding fee scale for families that are enrolled in an early care and education program under Early Start CT. Such sliding scale shall be based on family income and be consistent with the sliding fee scale used in the child care subsidy program described in section 17b-249 of the general statutes.

Section 8: Section 10-550b(c) of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(c) The office, in operating and administering Early Start CT, may allocate, within available appropriations, an amount determined by the Commissioner for an administrative set-aside for each local or regional governance partner for coordination, program evaluation, and administration, ~~[up to ten per cent of the total financial assistance under the contract with each local or regional governance partner established pursuant to section 27 of this act, but not more than one hundred fifty thousand dollars, for coordination, program evaluation and administration. Such amount shall be increased by an amount equal to local funding provided for early childhood education coordination, program evaluation and administration, not to exceed an amount fifty thousand dollars.]~~ Each local or regional governance partner shall designate a staff person to be responsible for such coordination, program evaluation and administration and to act as a liaison between the town or towns and the commissioner.