



Agency Legislative Proposal - 2019 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

Liaison: Maggie Adair

Phone: 860-500-4415

E-mail: maggie.adair@ct.gov

Lead agency division requesting this proposal: Various

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal: Maggie Adair, Cynthia Isales, Debra Johnson

Title of Proposal: AAC Revisions to Statutes of Early Childhood

Statutory Reference: Various

Section 1:

- (i) Add SNAP Employment and Training (E & T) as an eligibility category to Care 4 Kids.
- (ii) Change Care 4 Kids income eligibility from 75% to the federally required 85% of State Medium Income, up to the maximum allowed by federal law.
- (iii) Delete Priority Group 7 under the Care 4 Kids statute. Amend Sec. 17b-749.

Section 2: Create a 90-day grace period for immunizations and physical examination records for foster children upon enrolling in a child care center or group child care home. Amend Sec. 19a-79.

Section 3: Create a 90-day grace period for immunizations and physical examination records for foster children upon enrolling in a family child care home. Amend Sec. 19a-87b.

Section 4: Define comprehensive background check as one that meets all the components of the federal law. Amend Sec. 10-530.

Section 5: Create a licensing summary probation authority. Amend Sec. 19a-84.

Section 6: Create a licensing summary probation authority. Amend Sec. 19a-87e.

Section 7: Establish a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars for failure of a child care center or group child care home to provide 30 days written notification to the agency, staff and parents of the effective date of proposed closure. NEW Section.

Section 8: Change the reporting period for staff qualifications compliance from July 1 to January 1 annually. Amend Sec. 10-520a.



Section 9: Align School Readiness eligibility period with phase-out period. Amend Sec. 10-16p(d).

Section 10: Delete reference to federal act in the Even Start statute. Amend Sec. 10-265n.

Section 11: Change from primary care physicians to any licensed practitioner for signing the Birth to Three IFSP. Amend Sec. 17a-248e.

Section 12:

(i) Repeal statute allowing the signature of an APRN for an IFSP to be sufficient. Amend Sec. 17a-148g(h).

(ii) Repeal requirement for OEC to conduct a trend analysis of certain bachelor's degree programs in early childhood education or child development. Repeal Sec. 10-520.

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:

(i) Add SNAP Employment and Training (E & T) as an eligibility category to Care 4 Kids. Amend Sec. 17b-749. RATIONALE: This change would give SNAP recipients participating in a pre-approved employment and training program the same access to childcare that is currently afforded to TANF recipients participating in similar activities. Allowing access to quality child care for SNAP E&T participants will improve the program's retention, completion and employment rates, paving the path to economic self-sufficiency. Additionally, state dollars spent providing child care to this specific population qualify for a 50% federal reimbursement.

(ii) Change Care 4 Kids income eligibility from 75% to the federally required 85% of State Medium Income, as prescribed by federal law. Amend Sec. 17b-749. RATIONALE: Current federal law caps income eligibility at 85% of SMI; our current statute sets income eligibility at 75% of SMI.

(iii) Delete Priority Group 7 under the Care 4 Kids statute. Amend Sec. 17b-749. RATIONALE: This priority group was not feasible and was never implemented.

Section 2: Create a 90-day grace period for immunizations and physical examination records for foster children upon enrolling in a child care center or group child care home. Amend Sec. 19a-79. RATIONALE: This would allow for a child who is in foster care to immediately enroll in an early childhood setting and give the foster parents adequate time to locate the physical and immunization records. The federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) new rules require that states prioritize children who are foster children for child care services. The Office of Early Childhood included the grace period provision in its CCDF state plan.



Section 3: Create a 90-day grace period for immunizations and physical examination records for foster children upon enrolling in a family child care home. Amend Sec. 19a-87b. RATIONALE: This would allow for a child who is in foster care to immediately enroll in an early childhood setting and give the foster parents adequate time to locate the physical and immunization records. The federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) new rules require that states prioritize children who are foster children for child care services. The Office of Early Childhood included the grace period provision in its CCDF state plan.

Section 4: Define comprehensive background check as one that meets all the components of the federal law. Amend Sec. 10-530. RATIONALE: The federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) sets forth the components of a comprehensive background check in 45 CFR 98.43. Connecticut's statute needs to conform with the federal law.

Section 5: Create a licensing summary probation authority. Amend Sec. 19a-84. RATIONALE: Current statutes allows for the Office of Early Childhood to issue a summary suspension or a revocation of a license. A summary suspension results in a suspension of the license, which results in children immediately losing care. A revocation of a license is a lengthy legal process and results in closure of the program. A summary probation would allow a program to remain open and be subject to legal stipulations required by the Office of Early Childhood.

Section 6: Create a licensing summary probation authority. Amend Sec. 19a-87e. RATIONALE: Current statutes allows for the Office of Early Childhood to issue a summary suspension or a revocation of a license. A summary suspension results in a suspension of the license, which results in children immediately losing care. A revocation of a license is a lengthy legal process and results in closure of the program. A summary probation would allow a program to remain open and be subject to legal stipulations required by the Office of Early Childhood.

Section 7: Establish a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars for failure of a child care center or group child care home to provide 30 days written notification to the agency, staff and parents of the effective date of proposed closure. NEW Section under 19a. RATIONALE: A 30-day written notification of planned closure of a child care center of a group child care home is necessary to provide staff the time needed to seek alternative employment and for parents to seek alternative care for their child. Without the 30-day notice, there is the potential for child to be placed in an unhealthy and unsafe environment.

Section 8: Change the reporting period for staff qualifications compliance from July 1 to January 1 annually. Amend Sec. 10-520a. RATIONALE: The OEC does not have complete data on July 1. Much more accurate data is available by January 1 to produce a meaningful report.



Section 9: Align School Readiness eligibility period with phase-out period. Amend Sec. 10-16p(d). **RATIONALE:** Currently, the phase-out period is three years and the eligibility period is five years. This is technical correction to create alignment.

Section 10: Delete reference to federal act in the Even Start statute. Amend Sec. 10-265n. **RATIONALE:** The federal act governing the William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program no longer exists. Therefore, the language is not relevant.

Section 11: Change from primary care physicians to any licensed practitioner for signing the Birth to Three IFSP. Amend Sec. 17a-248e. **RATIONALE:** The current language is too narrow; current Birth to Three State Plan Amendment (SPA) allows licensed practitioners listed in the SPA to sign the IFSP.

Section 12:

(i) Repeal statute allowing the signature of an APRN for an IFSP to be sufficient. Amend Sec. 17a-148g(h). **RATIONALE:** Currently the Birth to Three State Plan Amendment (SPA) allows any qualified licensed practitioner listed in the SPA to sign the IFSP authorizing services.

(ii) Repeal requirement for OEC to conduct a trend analysis of certain bachelor's degree programs in early childhood education or child development. Repeal Sec. 10-520. **RATIONALE:** This is no longer needed since legislation passed allowing degrees from any accredited college to be an additional option in meeting the designated qualified staff member status for state-funded programs.

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?*

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PROPOSAL IMPACT

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

Agency Name: Department of Social Services
Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Michael Carone, Legislative Analyst, (860) 424-5307, and Dan Giacomi, SNAP Program Manager
Date Contacted: 10.16.18

Approve of Proposal YES NO **Talks Ongoing**

Summary of Affected Agency's Comments



Care 4 Kids/SNAP Employment and Training Proposal: We have been in contact with the SNAP Employment and Training team at DSS for several months on this issue.
Will there need to be further negotiation? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Agency Name: Department of Public Health Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Brie Wolf, Legislative Regulatory Analyst, (860) 256-1836 Date Contacted: September 2018
Approve of Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing
Summary of Affected Agency's Comments 90-day grace period for foster children to provide documentation of physical examination and immunization records to allow for immediate enrollment in a child care setting.
Will there need to be further negotiation? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Agency Name: Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Scott Devico – no response. Date Contacted: 10.16.18
Approve of Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing
Summary of Affected Agency's Comments Definition of comprehensive background checks.
Will there need to be further negotiation? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

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

Municipal (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation) None
State None
Federal If Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 are not enacted, the Office of Early Childhood would be out of compliance and possibly subject to a corrective action plan or a partial loss of CCDF funding.



Additional notes on fiscal impact

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

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Insert fully drafted bill here

Section 1. Subsections (a) through (c), inclusive, of section 17b-749 of the general statutes are repealed and the following are substituted in lieu thereof (July 1, 2019):

(a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish and operate a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker who (1) is working or attending high school, (2) receives cash assistance under the temporary family assistance program from the Department of Social Services and is participating in an education, training or other job preparation activity approved pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17b-688i or subsection (b) of section 17b-689d, or (3) is enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Employment and Training Program, pursuant to Sec. 17b-105f. Services available under the child care subsidy program shall include the provision of child care subsidies for children under the age of thirteen or children under the age of nineteen with special needs. The Office of Early Childhood shall open and maintain enrollment for the child care subsidy program and shall administer such program within the existing budgetary resources available. The office shall issue a notice on the office's Internet web site any time the office closes the program to new applications, changes eligibility requirements, changes program benefits or makes any other change to the program's status or terms, except the office shall not be required to issue such notice when the office expands program eligibility. Any change in the office's acceptance of new applications, eligibility requirements, program benefits or any other change to the program's status or terms for which the office is required to give notice pursuant to this subsection, shall not be effective until thirty days after the office issues such notice.

(b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for applicants and recipients at a level to include a family with gross income up to fifty per cent of the state-wide median income, except the commissioner (1) may increase the income level [to up to seventy-five per cent of the state-wide median income] up to the maximum level allowed by federal law, (2) upon the request of the Commissioner of Children and Families, may waive the income standards for adoptive families so that children adopted on or after October 1, 1999, from the Department of Children and Families are eligible for the child care subsidy program, and (3) on and after March 1, 2003, shall reduce the income eligibility level to up to fifty-five per cent of the state-wide median income for applicants and recipients who qualify based on their loss of eligibility for temporary family assistance. The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to establish income criteria and durational requirements for such waiver of income standards.



(c) The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish eligibility and program standards including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and eligibility system with preference given to serving (A) recipients of temporary family assistance who are employed or engaged in employment activities under the Department of Social Services' "Jobs First" program, or individuals participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Employment and Training approved program, pursuant to Sec. 17b-105f, (B) working families whose temporary family assistance was discontinued not more than five years prior to the date of application for the child care subsidy program, (C) teen parents, (D) low-income working families, (E) adoptive families of children who were adopted from the Department of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of income standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, and (F) working families who are at risk of welfare dependency;], and (G) any household with a child or children participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership federal grant program for a period of up to twelve months based on Early Head Start eligibility criteria;] (2) health and safety standards for child care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a reimbursement system for child care services which account for differences in the age of the child, number of children in the family, the geographic region and type of care provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion of fifteen hours of annual in-service training or credentialing of child care directors and administrators, and program accreditation; (4) supplemental payment for special needs of the child and extended nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process for providers which assures that reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which permit equal access to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an administrative appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process to adjudicate cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions and recover overpayments; (9) an extended period of program and payment eligibility when a parent who is receiving a child care subsidy experiences a temporary interruption in employment or other approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the child care subsidy program that reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with the inclusion of this information in the annual report required to be issued annually by the office to the Governor and the General Assembly in accordance with section 17b-733. Such action will include, but not be limited to, family income, age of child, region of state and length of time on such waiting list.

Section 2. Subsection (e) of section 19a-79 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (July 1, 2019):

(e) Any child care center or group child care home may provide child care services to homeless children and youths, as defined in 42 USC 11434a, as amended from time to time, and foster children, for a period not to exceed ninety days without complying with any provision in regulations adopted pursuant to this section relating to immunization and physical examination requirements. Any child care center or group child care home that provides child care services to homeless children and youths at such center or home under this subsection shall maintain a record on file of all homeless children and youths who have attended such center or home for a period of two years after such homeless children or youths are no longer receiving child care services at such center or home. For purposes of this section, "foster child" means a child placed by the



Department of Children and Families in a foster home which is: (1) licensed pursuant to section 17a-114; (2) approved by the Department of Children and Families pursuant to section 17a-149; or (3) a facility licensed pursuant to section 17a-145.

Section 3. Subsection (h) of section 19a-87b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*July 1, 2019*):

(h) Any family child care home may provide child care services to homeless children and youths, as defined in 42 USC 11434a, as amended from time to time, and foster children, for a period not to exceed ninety days without complying with any provision in regulations adopted pursuant to this section relating to immunization and physical examination requirements. Any child care center or group child care home that provides child care services to homeless children and youths at such center or home under this subsection shall maintain a record on file of all homeless children and youths who have attended such center or home for a period of two years after such homeless children or youths are no longer receiving child care services at such center or home. For purposes of this section, "foster child" means a child placed by the Department of Children and Families in a foster home which is: (1) licensed pursuant to section 17a-114; (2) approved by the Department of Children and Families pursuant to section 17a-149; or a facility licensed pursuant to section 17a-145.

Section 4. Section 10-530 of the 2018 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective 2019*):

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) A "child care facility" means a child care center, group child care home or family child care home that provides "child care services", as described in section 19a-77, or any provider of child care who receives a child care subsidy from the Office of Early Childhood as described in section 17b-749k;

(2) A "volunteer or alternate staff member" means an individual working at a child care center or group child care home who works more than twelve times per year;

(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, shall be conducted at least once every five years, and in accordance with 45 CFR 98.43. Such background checks shall be conducted for the following individuals: (1) staff, volunteers, and alternate staff of child care centers and group child care homes, as described in subsection (c) of section 19a-80, (2) providers, assistants, substitutes, and household members of licensed family child care homes, as described in subsection (c) of section 19a-87b, (3) family child care providers under the child care subsidy program, as described by subsection (2) of section 17b-705, (4) volunteers and alternate staff, as defined by subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, and (5) any provider, or staff member thereof, of child care who receives a child care subsidy from the Office of Early Childhood as described in section 17b-749k.



(c) Any person who applies for a position at a child care facility in the state shall not be required to submit to such comprehensive background checks if such person (1) is an employee of a child care facility in the state, or was previously an employee of a child care facility in the state during the previous 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 an employee or prospective employee of a child care facility to submit to comprehensive background checks more than once during a five-year period. [For purposes of this section, "child care facility" means a child care center, group child care home or family child care home that provides "child care services", as described in section 19a-77, and the home of a family child care provider, as defined in section 17b-705.]

Section 5. Section 19a-84 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (July 1, 2019):

(a) When the Commissioner of Early Childhood has reason to believe any person licensed under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, and sections 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, has failed substantially to comply with the regulations adopted under said sections, the commissioner may notify the licensee in writing of the commissioner's intention to suspend or revoke the license or to impose a licensure action. Such notice shall be served by certified mail stating the particular reasons for the proposed action. The licensee may, if aggrieved by such intended action, make application for a hearing in writing over the licensee's signature to the commissioner. The licensee shall state in the application in plain language the reasons why the licensee claims to be aggrieved. The application shall be delivered to the commissioner not later than thirty days after the licensee's receipt of notification of the intended action. The commissioner shall thereupon hold a hearing or cause a hearing to be held not later than sixty days after receipt of such application and shall, at least ten days prior to the date of such hearing, mail a notice, giving the time and place of the hearing, to the licensee. The hearing may be conducted by the commissioner or by a hearing officer appointed by the commissioner in writing. The licensee and the commissioner or hearing officer may issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses. The licensee shall be entitled to be represented by counsel and a transcript of the hearing shall be made. If the hearing is conducted by a hearing officer, the hearing officer shall state the hearing officer's findings and make a recommendation to the commissioner on the issue of revocation or suspension or the intended licensure action. The commissioner, based upon the findings and recommendation of the hearing officer, or after a hearing conducted by the commissioner, shall render the commissioner's decision in writing suspending, revoking or continuing the license or regarding the intended licensure action. A copy of the decision shall be sent by certified mail to the licensee. The decision revoking or suspending the license or a decision imposing a licensure action shall become effective thirty days after it is mailed by registered or certified mail to the licensee. A licensee aggrieved by the decision of the commissioner may appeal as provided in section 19a-85. Any licensee whose license has been revoked pursuant to this subsection shall be ineligible to apply for a license for a period of one year from the effective date of revocation.

(b) If the Commissioner finds that public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in his or her order, he or she may order summary suspension or



summary probation of a license pending proceedings for revocation or other action. These proceedings shall be promptly instituted and determined.

~~[(b)]~~ (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the denial of an initial application for a license under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, and 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, provided the commissioner shall notify the applicant of any such denial and the reasons for such denial by mailing written notice to the applicant at the applicant's address shown on the license application.

Section 6. Section 19a-87e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood may (1) refuse to license under section 19a-87b, a person to own, conduct, operate or maintain a family child care home, as defined in section 19a-77, (2) refuse to approve under section 19a-87b, a person to act as an assistant or substitute staff member in a family child care home, as defined in section 19a-77, or (3) suspend or revoke the license or approval or take any other action that may be set forth in regulation that may be adopted pursuant to section 19a-79 if the person who owns, conducts, maintains or operates the family child care home, the person who acts as an assistant or substitute staff member in a family child care home, a person employed in such family child care home in a position connected with the provision of care to a child receiving child care services or a household member, as defined in subsection (c) of section 19a-87b, who is sixteen years of age or older and resides therein, has been convicted, in this state or any other state of a felony, as defined in section 53a-25, involving the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against another person, or has a criminal record in this state or any other state that the commissioner reasonably believes renders the person unsuitable to own, conduct, operate or maintain or be employed by a family child care home, or act as an assistant or substitute staff member in a family child care home, or if such persons or a household member has been convicted in this state or any other state of cruelty to persons under section 53-20, injury or risk of injury to or impairing morals of children under section 53-21, abandonment of children under the age of six years under section 53-23, or any felony where the victim of the felony is a child under eighteen years of age, a violation of section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-70b, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, illegal manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing or administration under section 21a-277 or 21a-278, or illegal possession under section 21a-279, or if such person, a person who acts as assistant or substitute staff member in a family child care home or a person employed in such family child care home in a position connected with the provision of care to a child receiving child care services, either fails to substantially comply with the regulations adopted pursuant to section 19a-87b, or conducts, operates or maintains the home in a manner which endangers the health, safety and welfare of the children receiving child care services. Any refusal of a license or approval pursuant to this section shall be rendered in accordance with the provisions of sections 46a-79 to 46a-81, inclusive. Any person whose license or approval has been revoked pursuant to this section shall be ineligible to apply for a license or approval for a period of one year from the effective date of revocation.

(b) When the commissioner intends to suspend or revoke a license or approval or take any other action against a license or approval set forth in regulation adopted pursuant to section 19a-79, the commissioner shall notify



the licensee or approved staff member in writing of the commissioner's intended action. The licensee or approved staff member may, if aggrieved by such intended action, make application for a hearing in writing over the licensee's or approved staff member's signature to the commissioner. The licensee or approved staff member shall state in the application in plain language the reasons why the licensee or approved staff member claims to be aggrieved. The application shall be delivered to the commissioner within thirty days of the licensee's or approved staff member's receipt of notification of the intended action. The commissioner shall thereupon hold a hearing within sixty days from receipt of such application and shall, at least ten days prior to the date of such hearing, mail a notice, giving the time and place of the hearing, to the licensee or approved staff member. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the denial of an initial application for a license or approval under section 19a-87b, provided the commissioner shall notify the applicant of any such denial and the reasons for such denial by mailing written notice to the applicant at the applicant's address shown on the license or approval application.

(c) If the Commissioner finds that public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in his or her order, he or she may order summary suspension or summary probation of a license pending proceedings for revocation or other action. These proceedings shall be promptly instituted and determined.

[(c)] (d) Any person who is licensed to conduct, operate or maintain a family child care home or approved to act as an assistant or substitute staff member in a family child care home shall notify the commissioner of any conviction of the owner, conductor, operator or maintainer of the family child care home or of any household member, as defined in subsection (c) of section 19a-87b, who is sixteen years of age or older, or any person employed in such family child care home in a position connected with the provision of care to a child receiving child care services, of a crime which affects the commissioner's discretion under subsection (a) of this section, immediately upon obtaining knowledge of such conviction. Failure to comply with the notification requirement of this subsection may result in the suspension or revocation of the license or approval or the taking of any other action against a license or approval set forth in regulation adopted pursuant to section 19a-79 and shall subject the licensee or approved staff member to a civil penalty of not more than one hundred dollars per day for each day after the person obtained knowledge of the conviction.

[(d)] (e) It shall be a class A misdemeanor for any person seeking employment in a position connected with the provision of care to a child receiving family child care home services to make a false written statement regarding prior criminal convictions pursuant to a form bearing notice to the effect that such false statements are punishable, which statement such person does not believe to be true and is intended to mislead the prospective employer.

[(e)] (f) Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a family child care home, as defined in section 19a-77, is operating without a current and valid license or in violation of the regulations adopted under section 19a-87b or in a manner which may pose a potential danger to the health, welfare and safety of a child receiving child care services, may report such information to the Office of Early Childhood. The office shall investigate any report or complaint received pursuant to this subsection. The name of the person making the



report or complaint shall not be disclosed unless (1) such person consents to such disclosure, (2) a judicial or administrative proceeding results from such report or complaint, or (3) a license action pursuant to subsection (a) of this section results from such report or complaint. All records obtained by the office in connection with any such investigation shall not be subject to the provisions of section 1-210 for a period of thirty days from the date of the petition or other event initiating such investigation, or until such time as the investigation is terminated pursuant to a withdrawal or other informal disposition or until a hearing is convened pursuant to chapter 54,¹ whichever is earlier. A formal statement of charges issued by the office shall be subject to the provisions of section 1-210 from the time that it is served or mailed to the respondent. Records which are otherwise public records shall not be deemed confidential merely because they have been obtained in connection with an investigation under this section.

Section 7. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) A child care center or group child care home that fails to provide written notification to the Office of Early Childhood, staff and parents of the children at least 30 days prior to the effective date of a proposed closure shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars.

(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.

Section 8. Section 10-520a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

Not later than [July] **January** 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.

Section 9. Subsection (d) of 10-16p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):



(d) (1) The commissioner shall establish a competitive grant program to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs or school readiness programs seeking accreditation for eligible children who reside (A) in an area served by a priority school or a former priority school, (B) in a town ranked one to fifty when all towns are ranked in ascending order according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, whose school district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p, (C) in a town formerly a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, or (D) in a town designated as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, whose school district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p. A town in which a priority school is located, a regional school readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16r, for a region in which such a school is located or a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision may apply for such a grant in an amount not less than one hundred seven thousand dollars per priority school or town. Eligibility shall be determined for a **[five-year]** three-year period based on an applicant's designation as having a priority school or being a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision for the initial year of application. Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the superintendent of schools of the school district or the regional school readiness council shall submit a plan, as described in subsection (c) of this section, for the expenditure of such grant funds to the commissioner. In awarding grants pursuant to this subsection, the commissioner shall give preference to applications submitted by regional school readiness councils and may, within available appropriations, provide a grant to such town or regional school readiness council that increases the number of spaces for eligible children who reside in an area or town described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision, in an accredited school readiness program or a school readiness program seeking accreditation. A town or regional school readiness council awarded a grant pursuant to this subsection shall use the funds to purchase spaces for such children from providers of accredited school readiness programs or school readiness programs seeking accreditation.

Section 10. Section 10-265n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

The Office of Early Childhood shall administer, within available appropriations, an even start family literacy program, **[in accordance with the William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program under the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-111,]** to provide grants to establish new or expand existing local family literacy programs that provide literacy services for children and the parents or guardians of such children.

Section 11. Section 17a-248e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) Each eligible child and his family shall receive (1) a multidisciplinary assessment of the child's unique needs and the identification of services appropriate to meet such needs, (2) a written individualized family service plan developed by a multidisciplinary team, including the parent, within forty-five days after the referral, and (3) review of the individualized family service plan with the family at least every six months, with evaluation of the individualized family service plan at least annually.

(b) The individualized family service plan shall be in writing and contain: (1) A statement of the child's present level of physical development, cognitive development, language and speech development and self-help skills, based on acceptable objective criteria; (2) a statement of the family's priority, resources and concerns relating



to enhancing the development of the eligible child; (3) a statement of the major outcomes expected to be achieved for the child and the family and the criteria, procedures and timelines used to determine the degree to which progress toward achieving the outcomes are being made, and whether modifications or revisions of the outcomes are necessary; (4) a statement of specific early intervention services necessary to meet the unique needs of the eligible child and the family, including the frequency, intensity and the method of delivering services; (5) a statement of the natural environments in which the services shall be provided; (6) the projected dates for initiation of services and the anticipated duration of such services; (7) the name of the approved comprehensive service provider that will provide or procure the services specified in the individualized family service plan; (8) the name of the individual service coordinator from the profession most immediately relevant to the eligible child's or the family's needs who will be responsible for the implementation of the plan and coordination with the other agencies and providers or an otherwise qualified provider selected by a parent; and (9) the steps to be taken to support the transition of the child who is eligible for participation in preschool programs under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, 20 USC 1471 et seq., as appropriate.

(c) The individualized family service plan shall be developed in consultation with the child's [pediatrician or] primary care [physician] provider or any other licensed practitioner listed in birth-to-three personnel standards.

(d) The lead agency may provide early intervention services, arrange for the delivery of early intervention services by participating agencies or contract with providers to deliver early intervention services to eligible children and the families of such children. The lead agency in providing, arranging or contracting for early intervention services shall monitor all birth-to-three service providers for quality and accountability in accordance with Section 616 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1416 and establish state-wide rates for such services.

Section 12. (Effective July 1, 2019): Subsection (h) of section 17a-148g and section 10-520 of the general statutes are repealed.

Sec. 17a-148g:

[(h) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, the signature on an individualized family service plan of an advanced practice registered nurse, working within said nurse's scope of practice in collaboration with a physician licensed to practice medicine in this state, in accordance with section 20-87a, and performing or directly supervising the primary care services for children enrolled in the birth-to-three program, shall be deemed sufficient to order all such services included in the individualized family service plan and shall be deemed sufficient by the Department of Social Services to substantiate a claim for federal financial participation.**]**

[Sec. 10-520. Trend analysis of certain bachelor's degree programs in early childhood education or child development. (a) As used in this section, "bachelor's degree program in early childhood education or child development" means a bachelor's degree with a concentration in early childhood education, including, but not limited to, a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, child study, child development or human growth and development.



(b) On and after July 1, 2015, the Office of Early Childhood shall, during a review and assessment pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 10-16p, collect data relating to bachelor's degree programs in early childhood education or child development that have not been approved by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education and the Office of Early Childhood from institutions of higher education that are regionally accredited. The office shall, at least quarterly, use such data to conduct a trend analysis of such bachelor's degree programs for the purpose of determining (1) whether such bachelor's degree programs align with the teacher preparation standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and (2) which courses and concentrations offered as part of such bachelor's degree programs align with such teacher preparation standards.

(c) During a review and assessment pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 10-16p, the office shall (1) review the results of the trend analysis conducted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section for the purpose of determining whether the degree of an individual with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or child development or a bachelor's degree and twelve credits or more in early childhood education or child development, other than those bachelor's degrees specified in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 10-16p, has a sufficient concentration in early childhood education so as to satisfy the requirements set forth in said subparagraphs (B) and (C), and (2) consider an individual to have met the requirements set forth in said subparagraphs (B) and (C) if the degree of such individual is from a bachelor's degree program in early childhood education or child development that is aligned with the teacher preparation standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children as determined by such trend analysis.

(d) The office shall make the results of the trend analysis conducted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section available on its Internet web site.]