



## Agency Legislative Proposal - 2022 Session

**Document Name:** Office of Early Childhood Legislative Proposals.doc

(If submitting electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092621\_OEC\_TechRevisions)

**State Agency:** Office of Early Childhood

**Liaison:** Maggie Adair

**Phone:** 860-878-8936

**E-mail:** maggie.adair@ct.gov

**Lead agency division requesting this proposal:** *Various, Including Sec. 10-16z, Sec. 10-16p & Sec. 19a-420*

**Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal:** Maggie Adair, Michael Curley, Debra Johnson

**Title of Proposal:** AAC Revisions to Statutes of Early Childhood

**Statutory Reference:** Various

**Section 1:** Add a licensed Family Child Care provider to the membership of the Early Childhood Cabinet. Add a parent who is a member of the OEC Parent Cabinet to the Early Childhood Cabinet. Clarify that parents who are members of the Cabinet may, within available appropriations, receive compensation for time attending Cabinet meetings. Remove penalty for non-attendance at meetings.

**Section 2:** Allow for the Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood to adjust standards as needed to ensure sufficient workforce and staffing in school readiness programs including the staff qualifications requirement.

**Section 3:** Remove advertising as a youth camp from the definition of a youth camp.

### 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:** Add a licensed Family Child Care provider to the membership of the Early Childhood Cabinet. Add a parent who is a member of the OEC Parent Cabinet to the Early Childhood Cabinet. Clarify that



parents who are members of the Cabinet may, within available appropriations, receive compensation for time attending Cabinet meetings. Remove penalty for non-attendance at meetings.

**RATIONALE:** Family Child Care (FCC) providers are a critical element of the early care and education system and their importance has been heightened during the pandemic as their small group sizes make it easier to follow public health guidelines and allow many parents to feel more comfortable sending their children to this setting. Beyond the temporary COVID-19 implications, FCC providers also provide more flexible hours and offer culturally competent care, both of which are of critical importance to many families of color who are disproportionately likely to work non-traditional hours. They also provide an opportunity to rapidly address the lack of supply of high-quality infant and toddler care in the state. Their voice should be represented on the Early Childhood Cabinet.

Elevating the voice of families in building an equitable and accessible early care and education system is critical and essential. The Office of Early Childhood has established an OEC Parent Cabinet, comprised of 15 parent members representing the regions of the state. The Parent Cabinet seeks to help make improvements to the lives of children and families by working directly with our state agency. The voice and work of the Parent Cabinet, through one designated member, can help inform the Early Childhood Cabinet.

Parents serving on the Cabinet are offering their time and expertise, not in a paid work capacity, and therefore, should be compensated for that time. This proposal allows, not requires, that parents be compensated.

Attendance at meetings can sometimes be out of a person's control, such as losing access to child care, requirements to stay on the job during scheduled meetings, illness, etc. This language that requires an individual to resign is too prescriptive and does not take into account personal circumstances.

**Section 2:** Allow for the Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood to adjust standards as needed to ensure sufficient workforce and staffing in school readiness programs including the staff qualifications requirement.

**RATIONALE:** Allowing the OEC Commissioner to modify the Qualified Staff Member (QSM) requirements takes into account hiring challenges in the early care and education field that may arise from adverse workforce conditions and other circumstances. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on child care centers' ability to recruit and retain qualified staff, resulting in classroom closures and sometime, program closures. This has resulted in fewer child care spaces available for working families, creating challenges and even causing a parent to leave the workforce to care for their children. This statutory change will help with recruitment and retention of early care and education staff, particularly in difficult circumstance, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Section 3:** Remove advertising as a youth camp from the definition of a youth camp.



**RATIONALE:** Place the primary focus on the characteristics of a program to determine whether it is a youth camp.

◇ **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?*

These are new submissions.

### **PROPOSAL IMPACT**

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

**Agency Name:** Click here to enter text.

**Agency Contact (name, title, phone):** Click here to enter text.

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

**Summary of Affected Agency's Comments**

Click here to enter text.

Will there need to be further negotiation?    ☐ **YES**    ☐ **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**

None

**Additional notes on fiscal impact**

Click here to enter text.



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

Click here to enter text.

**Insert fully drafted bill here**

**Section 1: Sec. 10-16z**

Section 10-16z of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2022):

**Sec. 10-16z. Early Childhood Cabinet. Members. Duties.** (a) There is established the Early Childhood Cabinet. The cabinet shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, (3) the Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee, (4) the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, or the president's designee, (5) the Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee, (6) the Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the commissioner's designee, (7) the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee, (8) the executive director of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity or the executive director's designee, (9) the project director of the Connecticut Head Start State Collaboration Office, (10) a parent or guardian of a child who attends or attended a school readiness program appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, (11) a representative of a local provider of early childhood education appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, (12) a representative of the Connecticut Family Resource Center Alliance appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, (13) a representative of a state-funded child care center appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, (14) two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom is a member of a board of education for a town designated as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, and one of whom is a parent who has a child attending a school in an educational reform district, as defined in section 10-262u, (15) two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom is a representative of an association of early education and child care providers and one of whom is a representative of a public elementary school with a prekindergarten program, (16) [eight] ten appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Head Start Association, one of whom is a representative of the business community in this state, one of whom is a representative of the philanthropic community in this state, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut State Employees Association, one of whom is an administrator of the child care development block grant pursuant to the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, one of whom is responsible for administering grants received under section 1419 of Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1419, as amended from time to time, one of whom is responsible for administering the provisions of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 USC 6301 et seq., [and]



one of whom is responsible for coordinating education services to children and youth who are homeless, [a licensed family child care provider who is a member of a Staffed Family Child Care Network](#), [and a parent designated by the Office of Early Childhood Parent Cabinet](#), (17) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, (18) the Lieutenant Governor, or the Lieutenant Governor's designee, (19) the Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee, and (20) the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or the commissioner's designee.

(b) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall serve as a cochairperson of the cabinet. The other cochairperson of the cabinet shall be appointed from among its members by the Governor. The cabinet shall meet at least quarterly. [\[Members shall not be compensated for their services.\] Council members who serve in the designated role of parent or guardian may, within available appropriations, be compensated for time attending Cabinet meetings. \[Any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from the cabinet.\]](#)

(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.

(d) The Early Childhood Cabinet shall be within the Office of Early Childhood for administrative purposes only.

## **Section 2: Sec. 10-16p**

Section 10-16p (b) (1) of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2022):

(b) (1) The office shall be the lead agency for school readiness. For purposes of this section and section 10-16u, school readiness program providers eligible for funding from the office shall include local and regional boards of education, regional educational service centers, family resource centers and providers of child care centers, as described in section 19a-77, Head Start programs, preschool programs and other programs that meet any standards established by the commissioner. The office shall establish standards for school readiness programs, [and adjust such standards to respond to workforce shortages, changes in workforce need, support expanding degree pathways, and meet equity goals, to the extent necessary to prevent classroom closures and reduced enrollment in school readiness programs, including the staff qualifications listed in subsection \(2\)](#). The standards may include, but need not be limited to, guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum content, including preliteracy development, lesson plans, parental involvement, staff qualifications and training, transition to school and administration. The office shall develop age-appropriate developmental skills and



goals for children attending such programs. The commissioner, in consultation with the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, the Commissioners of Education and Social Services and other appropriate entities, shall develop a professional development program for the staff of school readiness programs.

### **Section 3. Sec. 19a-420**

Section 19a-420 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2022):

**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, (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;
- (4) "Person" means the state or any municipal agency, individual, partnership, association, organization, limited liability company or corporation;



(5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Early Childhood; and

(6) "Office" means the Office of Early Childhood



## Agency Legislative Proposal - 2021 Session

**Document Name:** Office of Early Childhood Legislative Proposals.doc

(If submitting electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092621\_OEC\_TechRevisions)

State Agency: Office of Early Childhood

**Liaison:** Maggie Adair

**Phone:** 860-878-8936

**E-mail:** maggie.adair@ct.gov

Lead agency division requesting this proposal: Various

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal: Maggie Adair, Michael Curley

**Title of Proposal:** AAC Revisions to Statutes of Early Childhood

**Statutory Reference:** Various

**Section 1:** A technical statutory change to Sec. 17b-749k is needed due to the transition to the new criminal background system at DESPP. The OEC can no longer use the Connecticut On-Line Law Enforcement Communication Teleprocessing System (COLLECT) and is now using CT Criminal History Records System (CCHRS).

**Section 2:** Sec. 10-520 needs to be revised to reflect the appropriate date of June 30, 2029. This date change aligns with the dates in 10-16p where a bachelor's degree is required July 1, 2029.

### 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:** A technical statutory change to Sec. 17b-749k is needed due to the transition to the new criminal background system at DESPP. The OEC can no longer use the Connecticut On-Line Law Enforcement Communication Teleprocessing System (COLLECT) and is now using CT Criminal History Records System (CCHRS).





RATIONALE: OEC can no longer use the Connecticut On-Line Law Enforcement Communication Teleprocessing System (COLLECT) because DESPP is now using CT Criminal History Records System (CCHRS). OEC must use CCHRS.

**Section 2:** Sec. 10-520 needs to be revised to reflect the appropriate date of June 30, 2029. This date change aligns with the dates in 10-16p where a bachelor's degree is required July 1, 2029.

RATIONALE: This is a technical change that aligns dates for staff qualification requirements for child care providers working in state funded settings.

◇ 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?

These are new submissions.

### **PROPOSAL IMPACT**

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

**Agency Name:** DESPP

**Agency Contact (name, title, phone):** Dane Silcox, Manager of Identification and Records, 860-685-8686

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

**Summary of Affected Agency's Comments**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Will there need to be further negotiation?      ☐ **YES**      ☒ **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**

None

**Additional notes on fiscal impact**

Click here to enter text.

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

Click here to enter text.

**Insert fully drafted bill here****Section 1:****Sec. 17b-749k**

**Sec. 17b-749k. Comprehensive background checks, child abuse registry checks, sexual offender registry checks and Connecticut On-Line Law Enforcement Communication Teleprocessing System checks for purposes of child care subsidy program. Refusal to provide payments.** (a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall, within available appropriations, require any person, other than a relative, who provides child care services to a child and who receives a child care subsidy from the Office of Early Childhood, 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.

(b) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall, within available appropriations, require any relative who provides child care services to a child and who receives a child care subsidy from the Office of Early Childhood, to submit to a check of (1) state and national sexual offender registry databases, (2) the state child abuse registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k, and (3) the **[Connecticut On-Line Law Enforcement Communication Teleprocessing System]** [Connecticut Criminal History Request System](#) maintained by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. If such check reveals that the name of any such relative appears in such databases, on said registry or in said system, the commissioner may require such relative to submit to state and national criminal history records checks conducted in accordance with section 29-17a.

(c) The commissioner shall have the discretion to refuse payments for child care under any financial assistance program administered by him or her if the person or relative providing such child care 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, 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, or of a violation of section 53a-70b of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2019, or section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, or has a criminal record or was the subject of a substantiated report of child abuse in this state or any other state that the commissioner reasonably believes renders the person or relative unsuitable to provide child care.

## **Section 2:**

### **Sec. 10-520b**

**Sec. 10-520b. Early childhood teacher credential.** The Office of Early Childhood, upon receipt of a proper application and in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, shall issue an early childhood teacher credential to any person who holds (1) an associate degree with a concentration in early childhood education from an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited, provided such associate degree program is approved by (A) the Board of Regents for Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education, and (B) the Office of Early Childhood, or (2) a bachelor's degree with a concentration in early childhood education from an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited, provided such bachelor's degree program is approved by (A) the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education, and (B) the Office of Early Childhood. Any early childhood teacher credential issued pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section shall be valid until June 30, 202<sup>[1]</sup><sub>9</sub>. For purposes of this section, "concentration in early childhood education" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-16p.