

NOTICE TO DAY CARE CENTERS

From: Shontée Blankenship, Deputy Director of Licensing

Date: November, 18 2024

This notice is to advise day care center owners, directors, and advisory groups that a copy of proposed changes to Rule 407, Licensing Standards for Day Care Centers (Section 407.130 Qualifications for Child Care Director, and Section 407.140 Qualifications for Early Childhood Teachers and School-Age Workers) has been posted to the DCFS website and the DCFS Sunshine Site. A summary of proposed changes includes:

Section 407.130 Qualifications for Child Care Director:

- **Montessori Credentials** for any ages between birth and 12 years, issued by a program accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE), or issued by the American Montessori Society (AMS) or the Association Montessori International (AMI) may be substituted for the courses directly related to child care and/or child development for child care directors.
- **First and Last Hour of Operation:** Through **June 30, 2029** a staff member who meets the qualifications of an early childhood teacher may be designated to assume decision making responsibility when the child care director is off site if the following conditions are met:
 - 1) The day care center operates 10 or more hours per day;
 - 2) The early childhood teacher must have at least 2880 hours of experience as an early childhood teacher at their current facility;
 - 3) The early childhood teacher may only be present and assume decision making responsibilities during the first and last hour of operation when a qualified director is not present; and
 - 4) The early childhood teacher must meet all other requirements of Section 407.130(1)(1), (2), and (3).

Section 407.140 Qualifications for Early Childhood Teachers and School-age Workers

- **Gateways to Opportunity Credentials:** Added Gateways to Opportunity Credentials as a pathway to early childhood teacher and school-age worker qualifications.
- **Interim Conditional Early Childhood Teacher:** Through **June 30, 2029**, licensed day care centers may hire individuals who are in the process of completing educational requirements in Sections 407.140(c)(1) or (c)(2) to be employed in the position of Interim Conditional Early Childhood Teacher.

- **Montessori Credentials** for any ages between birth and 12 years, issued by a program accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE), or issued by the American Montessori Society (AMS) or the Association Montessori International (AMI) may be substituted for the courses directly related to child care and/or child development for early childhood teacher and school-age worker positions.

COMMENTS AND COPIES OF PROPOSED CHANGES

On November 15, 2024, the Secretary of State published proposed amendments in Volume 48, Issue 46, of the *Illinois Register*. Copies are also available in local libraries and on Secretary of State website at:

<https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/index/register/home.html>

Copies are also available at the DCFS website at:

<https://dcfs.illinois.gov/about-us/notices/pr-policy-rulemaking.html>

Copies may be requested from, and comments may be sent to:

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Department of Children and Family Services
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The Department will consider fully all written comments on this proposed rulemaking submitted during the 45-day comment period. Comments submitted by small businesses should be identified as such. Comments will be accepted until December 30, 2024.