

NOTICE TO DAY CARE PROVIDERS

Adopted Amendments to Rule 407, Licensing Standards for Day Care Centers

From: Shontée Blankenship, Deputy Director of Licensing

Date: July 1, 2025

This notice is to advise day care center owners, directors, and advisory groups of 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). 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, that shall include opening and closing the facility, when the child care director is off site if the following conditions are met:
 - 1) The day care center operates eight 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:** Licensed day care centers may hire individuals who have completed the Gateways Level 1 Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Credential and are in the process of completing educational requirements in Sections 407.140(c)(1) or (c)(2) or in the process of completing a Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) or Certified Childcare Professional (CCP) credential to be employed in the position of Interim Conditional Early Childhood Teacher for a limited period of time, after advertising or posting a notice for a qualified early childhood teacher vacancy.
- **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.

This is a summary of the final rulemaking and not a substitution for the final rule. The full amendments to Rule 407, Licensing Standards for Day Care Centers will be posted to the DCFS website in the near future at:

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