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| | Approved by: | |

Interpretation

Question: May a child care director with 60 semester hours of college credit substitute courses taken acquiring the American Montessori Society's Infant and Toddler Credential for the 18 hours of Early Child Education required in Section 407.130?

Applicable To: Day Care Centers

Policy Citation: Section 407.130 Qualifications for Child Care Director

- e) In addition to meeting the requirements of Section 407.100, the child care director of a facility serving the same number of groups of pre-school and school-age children or more groups of pre-school children than groups of school-age children shall have achieved:
 - 1) Sixty semester hours (or 90 quarter hours) of credit from an accredited college or university with 18 semester or 27 quarter hours in courses related directly to child care and/or child development from birth to age six; or
- g) Completion of a training program accredited by the American Montessori Society or Association Montessori International may be substituted for the courses directly related to child care and/or child development required by this Section. Persons holding a Montessori pre-primary credential may serve as director to children through age six. Persons holding a Montessori primary or elementary credential may serve as director to children six years of age or older.

(Source: Added at 22 Ill. Reg. 1728, effective January 1, 1998)

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Discussion: Subsection 407.130(g) recognizes the equivalence of the American Montessori Society coursework to college child care and child development coursework by allowing its substitution for those courses. A holder of certain Montessori credentials qualifies as a day care director without any further college training under 407.130(g). Montessori credentials also substitute for academic credit at some colleges and universities. While the American Montessori Society has recently changed the Preprimary Credential (ages 3-6) to the Early Childhood Credential (ages 2½-6), their Infant and Toddler Credential (ages birth-3) was always offered separately. American Montessori International has not changed the names of their credentials since the effective date of this section.

Response: **A child care director with 60 semester hours of college credit may substitute coursework taken to obtain the American Montessori Society’s Infant and Toddler Credential for the 18 hours of Early Child Education required in Section 407.130.**