Division of Early Learning

Proposed Child Development Facility Licensing Regulations

The Office of the State Superintendent for Education (OSSE) Division of Early Learning (DEL) proposes to change the current Child Development Facility licensing regulations in order to strengthen the quality of child care and early childhood education in the District of Columbia; align licensing regulations to the Pre-Kindergarten Act, legislation increasing the capacity of Expanded Child Development Homes, and the Healthy Tots Act; and to reflect the statutory change granting OSSE the authorizing agency to regulate and monitor Child Development Facilities.

Major Changes Include:

⇒ Replacing "provisional" license with "temporary conditional" license
  - May only receive one within a licensing cycle
  - Fee equal to application fee applies

⇒ Adding a multi-year licensing option for facilities that meet certain criteria

⇒ Restricting owner/operator of a facility with a revoked license from reapplying for three years

⇒ Requiring two hours of "active" play and 45 minutes of outside play (weather permitting)
  - Active play includes one hour of teacher-lead activity and one hour of child-lead activity

⇒ Including provision for facilities to maintain carbon monoxide detectors

⇒ Increasing late fees for late renewal applications (includes incomplete renewal applications)

⇒ Removing the variance clause

⇒ Raising the level of qualifications for staff members

⇒ Prohibiting volunteers under the age of 18 with a criminal background from interacting with children
  - With criminal backgrounds equivalent to prohibited backgrounds for staff members

⇒ Outlining the physical demands of the work environment

⇒ Clarifying prohibited methods of discipline

⇒ Increasing required hours for annual professional development

⇒ Aligning definitions of "toddler" and "preschooler" with subsidy payment definitions

⇒ Strengthening health and sanitation requirements

⇒ Prohibiting peanuts in a Child Development Facility when an enrolled child has a peanut allergy

For more information regarding the proposed child development facility licensing regulations, please contact Melanie Chisholm at Melanie.chisholm@dc.gov.