



Child Care Program

2011 Legislative Changes

HB139 Gold Seal; Licensed Family Day Care Homes (FDCH) and Large Family Child Care Homes (LFCCH) supervision/capacity; and Advertisement - Effective 7/1/11 this bill revises the criteria for a child care provider to obtain and maintain a Gold Seal Quality Care provider designation; provides for certain household children to be included in licensed **FDCH** and **Large FCCH** capacity calculations; provides conditions for supervision of household children of operators; and revises advertising requirements applicable to child care facilities.

- A Gold Seal Quality Care provider may lose their Gold Seal status if the provider has been cited for the same class III violation, as defined by rule, three or more times and fails to correct the violation within a one year period. The Child Care Program anticipates that this change will result in fewer Gold Seal revocations for class III violations which are the least egregious. Our information system and policies will not be impacted by this change.
- With regard to capacity and supervision, language in current rule already supports the statutory changes and will continue to be applied in the field. All children under 13 years of age, including household children are included in the home's capacity when on the premises or on a field trip. Additionally, the operator of a licensed FDCH or LFCCH is responsible for supervising the children and must be capable of responding to emergencies and the needs of the children at all times. However, supervision for household children as newly defined will be left to the discretion of the operator unless the children receive subsidized child care. Licensing staff will continue to monitor capacity and ensure appropriate supervision occurs, which is the same manner as previously applied.
- The statute now requires family day care homes (licensed and registered) and large family child care homes to use their license number or registration number when advertising. This is a first degree misdemeanor so please remember to include your number when advertising in newspapers, magazines, Craig's list, etc.
- Signed 5/31/11 (Chapter 2011-75, Laws of Florida)

SB2120 K-12 Educational Funding – A subsection of this bill raises the maximum class size for the VPK programs only to 20 and for each class composed of 12 or more students an additional instructor is required.

- The Child Care Program Office is working with the Office of Early Learning to determine how to implement the new VPK ratios within the square footage capacity constraints of licensure in an effort to assist providers in benefitting from the Legislature's ratio accommodation to offset the reduction in the base student allocation (BSA).
- The Child Care Program Office will draft new policies and or rules to implement any changes relative to the new VPK ratios.
- Signed 5/26/11 (Chapter 2011-55, Laws of Florida)

SB 2156 Governmental Reorganization –This bill transfers the Agency for Workforce Innovation's Office of Early Learning (OEL) to the Department of Education as its own entity.

- The Child Care Program Office will continue to work with OEL as they transition to their new structure at the Department of Education.
- The Child Care Program will continue to maintain the VPK provider profile on our website, VPK training, DOE training, VPK director endorsement and other joint initiatives for a smooth and seamless transition for providers.
- Signed 6/14/11 (Chapter 2011-142, Laws of Florida)

