



Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families

PUBLIC ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 23-24.6 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended, and in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Chapter 42-35 of the General Laws, the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) hereby gives advance notice of its intent to repeal the School Age Child Care Program Regulations for Licensure and the Child Care Program Regulations for Licensure and adopt the Child Care Center and School Age Program Regulations for Licensure.

The proposed regulations may be viewed on the Department's website at www.dcyf.ri.gov.

The purpose of the advance notice of proposed rulemaking is to gather information relevant to the subject matter of a potential rulemaking proceeding and to solicit comments and recommendations from the public.

All interested parties are invited to submit written comments and to participate in a survey concerning the proposed regulations by the end of the comment period. The comment period will end at close of business on Tuesday, February 14, 2017.

Interested parties may complete a quick survey at <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3318909/Feedback-on-the-draft-Child-Care-Regulations-for-Licensure> and/or provide more detailed feedback. Please submit all feedback by 4pm on Tuesday, February 14th.

Streamlined child care regulations are a requirement of legislative changes to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) and are written in accordance with guidance set forth by the Office of Regulatory Reform (ORR). The goal is to produce simplified regulations that strike a balance between ensuring the health and safety of children in licensed child care settings and offering centers more flexibility to meet the individual needs of the children and families they serve. The proposed regulations drafted by the Department are reflective of current child care best practices and were developed collaboratively with child care centers from across the state.

Please note that the APA requires that any "non-regulatory" language must be removed from policies and regulations, and should be included in a related guidance document. These guidance documents will allow agencies like DCYF

to inform the public on their interpretation of a policy or regulatory issue. The guidance document for the child care center and school age regulations will be made available during the formal promulgation process.

After February 14th, DCYF will submit a final copy of regulations to ORR for review. After the review is completed, the regulations will be submitted to the Secretary of State to begin the formal promulgation process which will include a formal 30 day comment period.

If you have any questions, or need more information, please email Veronica Davis (Chief of Licensing & Regulation) at Veronica.Davis@dcyf.ri.gov.