**New Requirements for School Readiness**

To access the new health and safety requirements visit the following link:

**https://www.flrules.org/gateway/RuleNo.asp?title=Office%20of%20Early%20Learn**

**ing%20-%20School%20Readiness%20Program&ID=6M-4.620**

Current providers whose School Readiness contract was signed on or before December 31, 2016 must achieve compliance with the standards according to the following sequential deadlines:

* March 31, 2017 Pre-service training Requirements
* June 30, 2017 All other health and safety standards
* October 25, 2018 Active Credential Requirement related to group size

In partnership with the Office of Early Learning, the Department of Children and

Families is the monitoring agency for the new health and safety standards for the

School Readiness program.

**For current Licensed Providers monitoring for the new requirements will occur during the next renewal licensing inspection.**

Additional technical assistance will be provided at the time of the first School Readiness inspection.

**Pre-Service Training** - Training must be completed within 90 days of the date of hire

with a program participating in the School Readiness program. Training must be

documented on the Department’s training transcript or the Early Learning Florida

transcript. This is referred to as pre-service training and personnel who have not

completed all pre-service training requirements may not be allowed any unsupervised contact with or care of children in a school readiness program **(Due March 31, 2017).**

**Group Size** – Establishes a maximum number of children that can be in one classroom

area. Group size does not apply during times of outdoor play, provided that ratios and

the applicable square footage requirements are maintained at all times. Prior to making changes to classroom set-up as it relates to group size and classroom space you are encouraged to reach out to your local fire department for guidance and assistance. You must also contact your Licensing Counselor. **(Due June 30, 2017)**.

**Group Size for Facility:**

* Birth -12 months not to exceed 12 children
* 1 y -24 months not to exceed 12 children
* 2 y – 3 y not to exceed 22 children
* 3 y – 4 y not to exceed 30 children
* 4 y – 6 y not to exceed 40 children

• In groups of mixed age ranges, where children one year of age but under two

years of age are included, the group size for the youngest population present

within the group applies.

• In groups of mixed age ranges, where children two years of age or older are

included, the group size for the majority population present within the group

applies.

**Important!** As the group size increases and requires additional staff to meet ratio, one staff must possess at a minimum an active credential **(Due October 25, 2018)**

**Group sizes for FDCH:**

• A maximum of four children from birth to 12 months of age

• A maximum of three children from birth to 12 months of age, and other children,

for a maximum total of six children

• A maximum of six preschool children if all are older than 12 months of age.

• A maximum of 10 children if no more than 5 are preschool age and, of those 5,

no more than 2 are under 12 months of age.

**Group Size for LFCCH:**

• A maximum of 8 children from birth to 24 months of age.

• A maximum of 12 children, with no more than 4 children under 24 months of age.

**Expulsion Policy** - Each school readiness program must have written policies and

procedures regarding discipline and expulsion of children in care. A copy of the current

policies must be available to the inspection authority to review. Verification that the

program has provided the parent or guardian a written copy of the disciplinary and

expulsion policies used by the program must be documented in the child’s file with the

signature of the custodial parent or legal guardian **(Due June 30, 2017).**

**Emergency Preparedness** - The plan must facilitate parent/guardian reunification onsite and offsite. Additionally the plan must include accommodations for infants and toddlers, if applicable, and must describe how the facility will meet the needs of all children, including children with special needs or with chronic medical conditions, during and following an emergency event **(June 30, 2017).**

Inspection results will be shared with the ELC as a component of the program’s School Readiness contract file. If you have questions concerning the new rule changes you may contact your licensing counselor or local licensing office.

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**Child Care Regulation Orange/Osceola Supervisor Christina Bryant phone: 407-552-0493.**