



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Substitute Bill No. 6921



**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE
OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-550g of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Office of Early Childhood funded early care and education
5 program" means an early care and education program that accepts state
6 funds directly from the office or indirectly through office
7 subcontractors, for any combination of infant, toddler [,] and preschool,
8 and any before and after school program for infant, toddler and
9 preschool-age children, but does not include the child care subsidy
10 program established pursuant to section 17b-749.

11 (2) "Designated staff member" means the person assigned the
12 primary responsibility for a classroom of children in an Office of Early
13 Childhood funded early care and education program.

14 (3) "Designated qualified staff member" means a designated staff
15 member who possesses at least one of the following:

16 (A) A bachelor's degree or higher with a concentration in early
17 childhood education from an institution of higher education that is (i)

18 regionally accredited and accredited by the National Association for the
19 Education of Young Children, (ii) regionally accredited and working
20 toward achieving accreditation from the National Association for the
21 Education of Young Children, or (iii) regionally accredited;

22 (B) A certificate issued pursuant to section 10-145b with an
23 endorsement in early childhood education or early childhood special
24 education;

25 (C) Deemed to meet the bachelor's degree requirements by the office
26 without a concentration in early childhood education, but with at least
27 twelve early childhood credits from an institution of higher education
28 that is regionally accredited;

29 (D) A bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education that
30 is regionally accredited, without a concentration in early childhood
31 education, but with at least twelve applicable early childhood credits as
32 determined by the office;

33 (E) Permission from the office if such designated staff member is
34 enrolled in an institution of higher education and engaged in and
35 making progress in an early childhood planned program of study
36 leading to an early childhood bachelor's degree and under supervision
37 in accordance with the provisions of subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of
38 this section.

39 (b) When a bachelor's degree designated qualified staff member is not
40 assigned, a person may be deemed a designated qualified staff member
41 if such person possesses at least one of the qualifications included in
42 subsection [(c)] (d) of this section and is under the supervision of an on-
43 site [bachelor's degree designated qualified staff member, except any
44 family child care home provider that accepts state funds shall meet the
45 designated qualified staff member qualifications] staff member who is
46 in a teacher or administrator role and meets the bachelor's degree or
47 higher with a concentration in early childhood education requirement.

48 (c) [When a bachelor's degree designated qualified staff member

49 supervises an associate degree designated qualified staff member, the
50 person possessing a bachelor's degree may supervise such associate
51 degree designated qualified staff member at an off-site location.] In the
52 case of a family child care home that is an Office of Early Childhood
53 funded early care and education program, if the designated qualified
54 staff member is working toward an early childhood associate degree or
55 higher, such designated qualified staff member may be supervised by
56 an individual from an off-site location who meets the bachelor's degree
57 requirements for a designated qualified staff member and who provides
58 coaching at the family child care home.

59 (d) The associate degree designated qualified staff member, under the
60 supervision of a bachelor's degree qualified staff member, shall possess
61 at least one of the following:

62 (1) An associate degree or higher with a concentration in early
63 childhood education from an institution of higher education that is (i)
64 regionally accredited and accredited by the National Association for the
65 Education of Young Children, (ii) regionally accredited and working
66 toward achieving accreditation from the National Association for the
67 Education of Young Children, or (iii) regionally accredited;

68 (2) Deemed to meet the associate degree requirements by the office
69 without a concentration in early childhood education, but with at least
70 twelve early childhood credits from an institution of higher education
71 that is regionally accredited;

72 (3) An associate degree from an institution of higher education that is
73 regionally accredited, without a concentration in early childhood
74 education, but with at least twelve applicable early childhood credits as
75 determined by the office;

76 (4) Permission from the office if such associate degree designated
77 qualified staff member is enrolled in an institution of higher education
78 and engaged in an early childhood planned program of study leading
79 to an early childhood associate degree.

80 [(d)] (e) (1) From July 1, [2024] 2025, to June 30, 2027, inclusive,
81 twenty-five per cent of the designated staff members at each Office of
82 Early Childhood funded early childhood education program shall be
83 designated qualified staff members meeting one of the criteria at the
84 bachelor's degree level. If the Office of Early Childhood funded early
85 care and education program is a family child care home, the designated
86 qualified staff member for such family child care home shall have
87 achieved or be working toward an early childhood associate degree or
88 [bachelor's degree] higher.

89 (2) From July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2030, inclusive, fifty per cent of the
90 designated qualified members at each Office of Early Childhood funded
91 early childhood education program shall be designated qualified staff
92 members meeting one of the criteria at the bachelor's degree level. If the
93 Office of Early Childhood funded early care and education program is
94 a family child care home, the designated qualified staff member for such
95 family child care home shall have achieved or be working toward an
96 early childhood associate degree or [bachelor's degree] higher.

97 (3) On and after July 1, 2030, sixty per cent of the designated qualified
98 members at each Office of Early Childhood funded child care program
99 shall be designated qualified staff members meeting one of the criteria
100 at the bachelor's degree level. If the Office of Early Childhood funded
101 early care and education program is a family child care home, the
102 designated qualified staff member for such family child care home shall
103 have achieved or be working toward an early childhood associate
104 degree or [bachelor's degree] higher, except on and after July 1, 2035, the
105 designated qualified staff member for such family child care home shall
106 hold an early childhood associate degree or higher.

107 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 19a-421 of the general statutes is
108 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
109 *2025*):

110 (a) No person shall establish, conduct or maintain a youth camp
111 without a license issued by the office. Applications for such license shall

112 be made in writing at least thirty days prior to the opening of the youth
113 camp on forms provided and in accordance with procedures established
114 by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by a fee of eight
115 hundred fifteen dollars or, if the applicant is a nonprofit, nonstock
116 corporation or association, a fee of three hundred fifteen dollars or, if
117 the applicant is a day camp affiliated with a nonprofit organization, for
118 no more than five days duration and for which labor and materials are
119 donated, no fee. All such licenses shall be valid for a period of one year
120 from the date of issuance unless surrendered for cancellation or
121 suspended or revoked by the commissioner for violation of this chapter
122 or any regulations adopted under section 19a-428, shall be
123 nontransferable and shall be renewable upon receipt by the
124 commissioner of a renewal application and payment of an eight-
125 hundred-fifteen-dollar license fee or, if the licensee is a nonprofit,
126 nonstock corporation or association, a three-hundred-fifteen-dollar
127 license fee or, if the applicant is a day camp affiliated with a nonprofit
128 organization, for no more than five days duration and for which labor
129 and materials are donated, no fee.

130 Sec. 3. Section 19a-420 of the general statutes is repealed and the
131 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

132 As used in this chapter:

133 (1) "Youth camp" means any regularly scheduled program or
134 organized group activity advertised as a camp or operated only during
135 school vacations or on weekends, conducted on a parcel of land that has
136 dwelling units or buildings intended to accommodate five or more
137 children, by a person, partnership, corporation, association, the state or
138 a municipal agency for recreational or educational purposes and
139 accommodating for profit or under philanthropic or charitable auspices
140 five or more children, who are at least three years of age and under
141 sixteen years of age, who are (A) not bona fide personal guests in the
142 private home of an individual, and (B) living apart from their relatives,
143 parents or legal guardian, for a period of three days or more per week
144 or portions of three or more days per week, provided any such relative,

145 parent or guardian who is an employee of such camp shall not be
146 considered to be in the position of loco parentis to such employee's child
147 for the purposes of this chapter, but does not include (i) classroom-based
148 summer instructional programs operated by any person, provided no
149 activities that may pose a health risk or hazard to participating children
150 are conducted at such programs, (ii) public schools, or private schools
151 in compliance with section 10-188 and approved by the State Board of
152 Education or accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the
153 State Board of Education, which operate a summer educational
154 program, (iii) licensed child care centers, or (iv) drop-in programs for
155 children who are at least six years of age administered by a nationally
156 chartered boys' and girls' club;

157 (2) "Resident camp" means any youth camp which is established,
158 conducted or maintained [on any parcel or parcels of land on which
159 there are located dwelling units or buildings intended to accommodate
160 five or more children who are at least three years of age and under
161 sixteen years of age] for at least seventy-two consecutive hours and in
162 which the campers attending such camps eat and sleep;

163 (3) "Day camp" means any youth camp which is established,
164 conducted or maintained [on any parcel or parcels of land on which
165 there are located dwelling units or buildings intended to accommodate
166 five or more children who are at least three years of age and under
167 sixteen years of age] during daylight hours for at least three days a week
168 with the campers eating and sleeping at home, except for one meal per
169 day, but does not include programs operated by a municipal agency;

170 (4) "Person" means the state or any municipal agency, individual,
171 partnership, association, organization, limited liability company or
172 corporation;

173 (5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Early Childhood;
174 and

175 (6) "Office" means the Office of Early Childhood.

176 Sec. 4. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 17a-248b of the general
177 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
178 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

179 (a) The lead agency shall establish a State Interagency Birth-to-Three
180 Coordinating Council and shall provide staff assistance and other
181 resources to the council. The council shall consist of the following
182 members, appointed by the Governor: (1) Parents, including [minority]
183 parents [.] of children with disabilities twelve years of age or younger
184 representing culturally diverse communities, with knowledge of, or
185 experience with, programs for children with disabilities from birth to
186 thirty-six months of age, the total number of whom shall equal not less
187 than twenty per cent of the total membership of the council, and at least
188 one of whom shall be a parent of a child six years of age or younger,
189 with a disability; (2) two members of the General Assembly at the time
190 of their appointment, one of whom shall be designated by the speaker
191 of the House of Representatives and one of whom shall be designated
192 by the president pro tempore of the Senate; (3) one person involved in
193 the training of personnel who provide early intervention services; (4)
194 one person who is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics;
195 (5) the state coordinator of education for homeless children and youth,
196 the state coordinator for early childhood special education and one
197 person from each of the participating agencies, except the Department
198 of Education, who shall be designated by the commissioner or executive
199 director of the participating agency and who have authority to engage
200 in policy planning and implementation on behalf of the participating
201 agency; (6) public or private providers of early intervention services, the
202 total number of whom shall equal not less than twenty per cent of the
203 total membership of the council; and (7) a representative of a Head Start
204 program or agency. The Governor shall designate the chairperson of the
205 council who shall not be the designee of the lead agency.

206 (b) The Governor shall appoint all members of the council for terms
207 of three years. [No appointed member of the council] Members
208 appointed to the council pursuant to subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive,
209 (6) and (7) of subsection (a) of this section may serve not more than two

210 consecutive terms, except a member may continue to serve until a
211 successor is appointed.

212 Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 10-16z of the general statutes is
213 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
214 *2025*):

215 (c) Within available resources, the Early Childhood Cabinet shall (1)
216 advise the Office of Early Childhood, established pursuant to section 10-
217 500, and (2) not later than December 1, 2009, and annually thereafter,
218 develop an annual plan of action that assigns the appropriate state
219 agency to complete the tasks specified in the federal Head Start Act of
220 2007, P.L. 110-134, as amended from time to time, [, and (3) not later than
221 March 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, submit an annual state-wide
222 strategic report, pursuant to said federal Head Start Act, in accordance
223 with the provisions of section 11-4a, addressing the progress such
224 agencies have made toward the completion of such tasks outlined under
225 said federal Head Start Act and this subsection to the Governor and the
226 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
227 of matters relating to education and human services.]

228 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 10-550c of the general statutes is
229 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
230 *2025*):

231 (a) There shall be established, within available appropriations, a local
232 or regional governance [partners] partner to assist in the provision of
233 early care and education in a community under Early Start CT. A town
234 or school district and appropriate representatives of groups or entities
235 interested in early care and education in such town or school district
236 may establish a local governance partner. Two or more towns or school
237 districts and appropriate representatives of groups or entities interested
238 in early care and education in a region may establish a regional
239 governance partner.

240 Sec. 7. Section 10-550d of the general statutes is repealed and the
241 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

242 [The] Not later than July 1, 2027, the Office of Early Childhood shall
 243 establish a sliding fee scale for families that are enrolled in an early care
 244 and education program under Early Start CT. Such sliding scale shall be
 245 based on family income and be consistent with the sliding fee scale used
 246 in the child care subsidy program described in section 17b-249.

247 Sec. 8. Subsection (c) of section 10-550b of the general statutes is
 248 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
 249 *2025*):

250 (c) The office, in operating and administering Early Start CT, may
 251 allocate, [an amount up to ten per cent of the total financial assistance
 252 under the contract with each local or regional governance partner
 253 established pursuant to section 10-550c, but not more than one hundred
 254 fifty thousand dollars, for coordination, program evaluation and
 255 administration. Such amount shall be increased by an amount equal to
 256 local funding provided for early childhood education coordination,
 257 program evaluation and administration, not to exceed fifty thousand
 258 dollars] within available appropriations, an amount determined by the
 259 commissioner for an administrative set-aside for each local or regional
 260 governance partner for coordination, program evaluation and
 261 administration. Each local or regional governance partner shall
 262 designate a staff person to be responsible for such coordination,
 263 program evaluation and administration and to act as a liaison between
 264 the town or towns and the commissioner.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2025	10-550g
Sec. 2	July 1, 2025	19a-421(a)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2025	19a-420
Sec. 4	July 1, 2025	17a-248b(a) and (b)
Sec. 5	July 1, 2025	10-16z(c)
Sec. 6	July 1, 2025	10-550c(a)
Sec. 7	July 1, 2025	10-550d
Sec. 8	July 1, 2025	10-550b(c)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b), "higher in" was changed to "higher with a concentration in" for consistency.

ED *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*