



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 932

LCO No. 4177



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE STAFF QUALIFICATIONS
REQUIREMENT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2019*):

4 (b) (1) The office shall be the lead agency for school readiness. For
5 purposes of this section and section 10-16u, school readiness program
6 providers eligible for funding from the office shall include local and
7 regional boards of education, regional educational service centers,
8 family resource centers and providers of child care centers, as defined
9 in section 19a-77, Head Start programs, preschool programs and other
10 programs that meet [such] any standards established by the
11 commissioner. The office shall establish standards for school readiness
12 programs. The standards may include, but need not be limited to,
13 guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum content, including
14 preliteracy development, lesson plans, [parent] parental involvement,
15 staff qualifications and training, transition to school and

16 administration. The office shall develop age-appropriate
17 developmental skills and goals for children attending such programs.
18 The commissioner, in consultation with the president of the
19 Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, the Commissioners of
20 Education and Social Services and other appropriate entities, shall
21 develop a professional development program for the staff of school
22 readiness programs.

23 (2) For purposes of this section:

24 (A) Prior to July 1, [2020] 2022, "staff qualifications" means that for
25 each early childhood education program accepting state funds for
26 infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program's
27 child care program or school readiness program, there is in each
28 classroom an individual who has at least the following: (i) A childhood
29 development associate credential or an equivalent credential issued by
30 an organization approved by the commissioner and twelve credits or
31 more in early childhood education or child development, as
32 determined by the commissioner or the president of the Connecticut
33 State Colleges and Universities, after consultation with the
34 commissioner, from an institution of higher education (I) accredited by
35 the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher
36 Education, and (II) regionally accredited; (ii) an associate degree with
37 twelve credits or more in early childhood education or child
38 development, as determined by the commissioner or the president of
39 the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, after consultation with
40 the commissioner, from such an institution; (iii) a four-year degree
41 with twelve credits or more in early childhood education or child
42 development, as determined by the commissioner or the president of
43 the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, after consultation with
44 the commissioner, from such an institution; (iv) certification pursuant
45 to section 10-145b with an endorsement in early childhood education
46 or special education; (v) an associate degree with a concentration in
47 early childhood education from an institution of higher education that
48 is regionally accredited; or (vi) a bachelor's degree with a concentration
49 in early childhood education from an institution of higher education

50 that is regionally accredited;

51 (B) From July 1, [2020] 2022, until June 30, [2023] 2025, "staff
52 qualifications" means that for each early childhood education program
53 accepting state funds for infant, toddler and preschool spaces
54 associated with such program's child care program or school readiness
55 program, (i) at least fifty per cent of those individuals with the primary
56 responsibility for a classroom of children (I) hold certification pursuant
57 to section 10-145b with an endorsement in early childhood education
58 or early childhood special education, (II) have been issued an early
59 childhood teacher credential, pursuant to section 10-520b, (III) hold at
60 least [a bachelor's] an associate degree with a concentration in early
61 childhood education from an institution of higher education that is
62 regionally accredited, or (IV) satisfy the requirements of subdivision
63 (3), (4) or (5) of this subsection, and (ii) such remaining individuals
64 with the primary responsibility for a classroom of children hold an
65 associate degree with a concentration in early childhood education
66 from an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited;
67 [and]

68 (C) From July 1, 2025, until June 30, 2029, "staff qualifications"
69 means that for each early childhood education program accepting state
70 funds for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such
71 program's child care program or school readiness program, (i) at least
72 fifty per cent of those individuals with the primary responsibility for a
73 classroom of children (I) hold certification pursuant to section 10-145b
74 with an endorsement in early childhood education or early childhood
75 special education, (II) have been issued an early childhood teacher
76 credential, pursuant to section 10-520b, (III) hold at least a bachelor's
77 degree with a concentration in early childhood education from an
78 institution of higher education that is regionally accredited, or (IV)
79 satisfy the requirements of subdivision (3), (4) or (5) of this subsection,
80 and (ii) such remaining individuals with the primary responsibility for
81 a classroom of children hold an associate degree with a concentration
82 in early childhood education from an institution of higher education
83 that is regionally accredited; and

84 [(C)] (D) On and after July 1, [2023] 2029, "staff qualifications" means
85 that for each early childhood education program accepting state funds
86 for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such
87 program's child care program or school readiness program, one
88 hundred per cent of those individuals with the primary responsibility
89 for a classroom of children (i) hold certification pursuant to section 10-
90 145b with an endorsement in early childhood education or early
91 childhood special education, (ii) have been issued an early childhood
92 teacher credential, pursuant to subdivision (2) of section 10-520b, (iii)
93 hold at least a bachelor's degree with a concentration in early
94 childhood education from an institution of higher education that is
95 regionally accredited, or (iv) satisfy the requirements of subdivision
96 (3), (4) or (5) of this subsection.

97 (3) Any individual with a bachelor's degree in early childhood
98 education or child development or a bachelor's degree and twelve
99 credits or more in early childhood education or child development,
100 who, on or before June 30, 2015, is employed by an early childhood
101 education program that accepts state funds for infant, toddler and
102 preschool spaces associated with such program's child care program or
103 school readiness program shall be considered to meet the staff
104 qualifications required under subparagraphs (B), [and] (C) and (D) of
105 subdivision (2) of this subsection. No such early childhood education
106 program shall terminate any such individual from employment for
107 purposes of meeting the staff qualification requirements set forth in
108 subparagraph (B), [or] (C) or (D) of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

109 (4) Any individual with an associate degree or a bachelor's degree in
110 early childhood education or child development or an associate degree
111 or a bachelor's degree and twelve credits or more in early childhood
112 education or child development from an institution of higher
113 education that is regionally accredited, other than an associate degree
114 or a bachelor's degree with a concentration in early childhood
115 education, may submit documentation concerning such degree for
116 review and assessment by the office as to whether such degree has a
117 sufficient concentration in early childhood education so as to satisfy

118 the requirements set forth in subparagraphs (B), [and] (C) and (D) of
119 subdivision (2) of this subsection.

120 (5) Any individual with an associate degree with twelve credits or
121 more in early childhood education or child development, as
122 determined by the commissioner or the president of the Connecticut
123 State Colleges and Universities, after consultation with the
124 commissioner, from an institution of higher education (A) accredited
125 by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher
126 Education, and (B) regionally accredited, who has been employed in
127 the same early childhood education program that accepts state funds
128 for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such
129 program's child care program or school readiness program since 1995
130 shall be considered to meet the staff qualifications required under
131 subparagraphs (B), [and] (C) and (D) of subdivision (2) of this
132 subsection until June 30, 2025. On and after July 1, 2025, such
133 individual shall hold a childhood development associate credential or
134 an equivalent credential, described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision
135 (2) of this subsection, or otherwise meet the staff qualifications
136 required under [subparagraph (C)] subparagraphs (C) and (D) of
137 subdivision (2) of this subsection. Any such individual who terminates
138 his or her employment with such early childhood education program
139 on or before June 30, 2025, and accepts a position at another early
140 childhood education program accepting state funds for spaces
141 associated with such program's child care program or school readiness
142 program shall submit documentation of such individual's progress
143 toward meeting the staff qualification requirements set forth in
144 subparagraph (B), [or] (C) or (D) of subdivision (2) of this subsection in
145 a manner determined by the office.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-16p(b)

Statement of Purpose:

To make revisions to and extend the dates of the staff qualifications requirement for early childhood educators.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]