



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 932

January Session, 2019



**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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*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
9 [defined] described in section 19a-77, Head Start programs, preschool
10 programs and other programs that meet [such] any standards
11 established by the commissioner. The office shall establish standards
12 for school readiness programs. The standards may include, but need
13 not be limited to, guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum
14 content, including preliteracy development, lesson plans, [parent]
15 parental involvement, staff qualifications and training, transition to
16 school and 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] a childhood development associate credential or an equivalent
68 credential issued by an organization approved by the commissioner
69 and twelve credits or more in early childhood education or child
70 development, as determined by the commissioner or the president of
71 the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, after consultation with
72 the commissioner, from an institution of higher education (I)
73 accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of
74 Higher Education, and (II) regionally accredited;

75 (C) From July 1, 2025, until June 30, 2029, "staff qualifications"
76 means that for each early childhood education program accepting state
77 funds for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such
78 program's child care program or school readiness program, (i) at least
79 fifty per cent of those individuals with the primary responsibility for a
80 classroom of children (I) hold certification pursuant to section 10-145b
81 with an endorsement in early childhood education or early childhood
82 special education, (II) have been issued an early childhood teacher
83 credential, pursuant to subdivision (2) of section 10-520b, (III) hold at
84 least a bachelor's degree with a concentration in early childhood
85 education from an institution of higher education that is regionally
86 accredited, or (IV) satisfy the requirements of subdivision (3), (4) or (5)
87 of this subsection, and (ii) such remaining individuals with the

88 primary responsibility for a classroom of children (I) hold an associate
89 degree with a concentration in early childhood education from an
90 institution of higher education that is regionally accredited, or (II) have
91 been issued an early childhood teacher credential, pursuant to
92 subdivision (1) of section 10-520b; and

93 [(C)] (D) On and after July 1, [2023] 2029, "staff qualifications" means
94 that for each early childhood education program accepting state funds
95 for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such
96 program's child care program or school readiness program, one
97 hundred per cent of those individuals with the primary responsibility
98 for a classroom of children (i) hold certification pursuant to section 10-
99 145b with an endorsement in early childhood education or early
100 childhood special education, (ii) have been issued an early childhood
101 teacher credential, pursuant to subdivision (2) of section 10-520b, (iii)
102 hold at least a bachelor's degree with a concentration in early
103 childhood education from an institution of higher education that is
104 regionally accredited, or (iv) satisfy the requirements of subdivision
105 (3), (4) or (5) of this subsection.

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

119 (4) Any individual with an associate degree or a bachelor's degree in
120 early childhood education or child development or an associate degree

121 or a bachelor's degree and twelve credits or more in early childhood
122 education or child development from an institution of higher
123 education that is regionally accredited, other than an associate degree
124 or a bachelor's degree with a concentration in early childhood
125 education, may submit documentation concerning such degree for
126 review and assessment by the office as to whether such degree has a
127 sufficient concentration in early childhood education so as to satisfy
128 the requirements set forth in subparagraphs (B) [~~and (C)] to (D),
129 inclusive, of subdivision (2) of this subsection.~~

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

155 subsection in a manner determined by the office.

156 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 10-520 of the general statutes is
 157 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
 158 *1, 2019*):

159 (c) During a review and assessment pursuant to subdivision (4) of
 160 subsection (b) of section 10-16p, the office shall (1) review the results of
 161 the trend analysis conducted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section
 162 for the purpose of determining whether the degree of an individual
 163 with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or child
 164 development or a bachelor's degree and twelve credits or more in early
 165 childhood education or child development, other than those bachelor's
 166 degrees specified in subparagraphs (B) [~~and (C)~~] to (D), inclusive, of
 167 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 10-16p, as amended by this
 168 act, has a sufficient concentration in early childhood education so as to
 169 satisfy the requirements set forth in said subparagraphs (B) [~~and (C)~~]
 170 to (D), inclusive, and (2) consider an individual to have met the
 171 requirements set forth in said subparagraphs (B) [~~and (C)~~] to (D),
 172 inclusive, if the degree of such individual is from a bachelor's degree
 173 program in early childhood education or child development that is
 174 aligned with the teacher preparation standards of the National
 175 Association for the Education of Young Children as determined by
 176 such trend analysis.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-16p(b)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-520(c)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b)(1), "defined" was changed to "[defined] described" for accuracy and Section 2 was added for consistency.

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*