



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Brian Blair
Kathy Castor
Ken Hagan
Jim Norman
Thomas Scott
Mark Sharpe
Ronda Storms

Office of the County Administrator
Patricia G. Bean

Deputy County Administrator
Wally Hill

Assistant County Administrators
Bernardo Garcia
Carl S. Harness
Manus J. O' Donnell

Date: February 2, 2005
To: Owners and Operators of Licensed Child Care Providers
From: Linda Stoller, Manager, Hillsborough County Child Care Licensing Program
Subject: New Regulations for Programs Serving Only School Age Children

In September 2004 the Florida Department of Children and Families adopted new rules affecting school age children. These rules provide, in part, that certain after school programs serving only school age children do not need to be licensed if they meet the criteria listed in the new rule. Those criteria are listed in the definitions below.

Hillsborough County will be revising its Child Care Facilities Ordinances #03-25 and #04-25 to include these new rules at a later date, however, these rules are effective immediately. If you are currently licensed by the Hillsborough County Office of Child Care Licensing as a program serving only school age children and would like to discuss the licensing status of your program, in light of the new rules, please call Linda Stoller at 272-6487 for an appointment.

Part One section 3. Definitions

change (22) "School Age Child" - means a child who is at least five years of age by September 1st of the beginning of the school year and who is attending kindergarten through grade 5.

add (33) "School Age Child Care Program" - means before and after school programs that are licensed as child care defined in Section 402.301, F.S., and serve only school age children as defined in Definitions (22) in section 3.

add (34) "An After School Program Serving School Age Children" means a program that is not required to be licensed because it meets one of the following criteria:

1. Programs located on public/nonpublic school sites, operated and staffed directly by that school or through a written or formal agreement between the school and a provider to serve school age children attending the school. These programs exclusively serve those children who attend the public/nonpublic school during the school day. The program may extend to providing services before school, on teacher planning days, holidays, and intercessions that occur during the school district's official calendar year. Pursuant to Section 402.305(5), F.S., programs operated in public school facilities, regardless of the operator, shall follow the standards set forth by the Florida Building Code State Requirements for Public Educational Facilities; or

2. Programs that provide activities to all children, regardless of age, that are strictly instructional or tutorial/academic in nature. These programs cannot extend beyond the instructional, and tutorial/academic activities of that program and do not serve or prepare meals or snacks. However, the program may choose to provide drinks

and snacks that do not require refrigeration or vending machine items that do not require refrigeration. Some examples of these programs include, but are not limited to computer class, ballet, karate, gymnastics, baseball, and other sports; or

3. After school programs that meets all the following criteria:

a. Operate for a period not to exceed a total of 4 hours in any one day; however, may extend to providing services before school, on teacher planning days, holidays, and intercessions that occur during the school district's official calendar year; and

b. Allow children to enter and leave the program at any time, without adult supervision; and

c. Do not provide any transportation, directly or through a contract or agreement with an outside entity, for the purpose of field trips, during the hours of operation; and

d. Do not serve or prepare any meals or snacks, however the program may choose to provide drinks and snacks that do not require refrigeration or vending machine items that do not require refrigeration; or

4. Programs providing after school care exclusively for children in grades 6 and above.

Add new section 13 School Age Child Care

13.01 Licensure Requirements

13.01(1) A program that meets the definition of "An After School Program Serving School Age Children" is not required to be licensed.

(A) An after school program exempted by Part One Section 3. Definitions (34) may become licensed if they choose to meet all of the applicable licensing standards in section 13.02.

(B) After school programs that choose to expand their program beyond the parameters in Part One Section 3. Definitions 34 must be assessed to determine if licensure is required. Any of the after school programs accepting children under the age of the school age child as defined in paragraph Part one Section 3 Definitions (22) above must be licensed.

13.01(2) School Age Child Care Standards: School Age Child Care Programs shall meet all requirements for a Child Care Facility set out in the Ordinance, except as otherwise specifically provided in this section 13.01(2) below.

(A) Application. Application must be made on forms prescribed by the local licensing agency.

(B) License. A school age child care license is issued in the name of the owner, partnership, association, or corporation, and must be posted in a conspicuous location where the school age child care program is operating.

(C) Supervision. When caring for school age children, child care personnel shall remain responsible for the supervision of the children in care and capable of responding to emergencies, and are accountable for children at all times, which includes when children are separated from their groups.

(D) School Age Child Care Personnel Training Requirements.

(1) Child care personnel must complete 40 hours of child care training by completing the following 20 hours of the Department of Children and Family Services' training as evidenced by passage of a competency examination with a score of seventy (70) or better:

1. State and Local rules and Regulation
2. Health, Safety and Nutrition
3. Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect
4. School Age Appropriate Practice

(2) The remaining 20 hours must be met by successfully completing other Department of Children and Family Services' training identified in section 1.02(1) or by completing 20 hours of specialized school age training, provided by a national organization or its affiliates that requires demonstration of competencies through passage of examinations(s) or completion and assessment of a Professional Resource File (portfolio) of materials that demonstrate competency).

(3) Child care personnel are exempt from the training requirement of 5-clock-hour early literacy and language development of children from birth to 5 years of age, under section 1.02(6).

(4) Child care personnel may choose to meet the training exemptions under subsection 1.02(6).

(5) School age child care programs are exempt from the staff credentialing requirement in section 1.02(10).