



# Child Care Certification Regulation, Review, + Update

IMPROVING STANDARDS OF QUALITY AND SERVICE FOR PROVIDERS, FAMILIES, AND CHILDREN

**In 2021**, the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) began the multi-year process of reviewing and updating regulations that currently govern child care centers and family child care homes. This rewrite is an opportunity for the early childhood and school-age community in Pennsylvania to co-create regulations in a way that builds stakeholder confidence in the process and:

- Increases alignment with quality improvement
- Promotes greater impartiality; and,
- Decreases burden experienced by child care providers.

## WHAT HAPPENED SO FAR

### Project Initiation (Fall 2021)

- Research and benchmarking conducted in partnership with national technical assistance partners
- Internal Workgroups (IWGs) established and organized by regulatory topic areas
- Planning for collaboration with the early childhood community through an Ad Hoc Subcommittee

### Project Planning (Fall 2021-Spring 2022)

- IWGs and external engagement kick-off to establish the intent, goals, and use of the Guiding Questions to shape the proposed regulations
- IWGs assemble; begin to review existing regulations and draft proposed regulations

### Initial Review (Spring-Summer 2022)

- Review of drafted, proposed regulations by Ad Hoc Subcommittee and Internal Reviewers
- IWGs edit based off feedback from ad hoc and internal reviewers

### External Engagement & Feedback (Summer-Fall 2022)

- Feedback sought from external stakeholders and public; updates made based on ECE field input
- Continued drafting of proposed regulations

### Preliminary Leadership Review (Fall 2022-Spring 2023)

- Initial review by DHS Legal and Policy staff

### Internal Review and Revisions (Spring 2023-present)

- Updates made based on initial review by DHS Legal and Policy staff
- In-depth review and analysis by internal OCDEL staff with lens toward applicability, provider burden and potential school age implication
- OCDEL Exec Leadership Review of proposed regulation package





## WORK TO COME

### Proposed Regulatory Review (Next step)

- Review of proposed package by DHS leadership and Governor's Office
- Review of proposed package by Office of Attorney General
- Submit to IRRC, legislative oversight committees, and legislative standing committees
- Publication in PA Bulletin for comment period

### Final Form Revisions & Review (TBD)

- Review of feedback from IRRC, public comments and updates made as needed
- Final internal review
- Submission to IRRC and legislative oversight committees
- IRRC public meeting, if approved:
  - Submit to Office of Attorney General Review
  - Submit to Legislative Reference Bureau for final-form publication

### Final Publication anticipated mid-year 2028 with one year for providers to come into compliance

- Implementation supports to be developed including guidance, training, and technical assistance



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR YOUR FEEDBACK!

*We appreciate all feedback to date and look forward to continued engagement as the proposed certification regulations progresses to formal public comment (anticipated Spring 2027).*