

Licensed Child Care Centers Outreach Handout

MN Requirements for Licensed Child Care Centers

Legislative requirements for licensed child care centers help protect the health and safety of children by requiring that providers meet minimum standards for care and physical environment. The requirements are in law and published by the Office of the Revisor of Statutes.

- Search and read MN Laws, Statutes, and Rules on the [Office of the Revisor of Statutes website](#)
- [Rule 3: MN Rules, Chapter 9503, Licensure of Child Care Centers](#)
- [MN Statutes, chapter 142B, Children, Youth, and Families Licensing](#)
- [MN Statutes, chapter 245C, Human Services Background Studies Act](#)
- [MN Statutes, chapter 260E, Maltreatment of Minors Act](#)

Contact Child Care Center Licensing

A licensor is available to answer questions Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Voicemail messages and emails are answered as promptly as possible.

- 651-431-6015
- DCYF.ccc.licensing@state.mn.us
- [Licensed child care centers webpage](#)

Child Care Center Licensing and Certification Training Specialists

- DCYF.cclictraining@state.mn.us

Legislative Update

The [Implementation Plan for 2025 Legislative Changes](#) was sent to licensed child care centers on August 1, 2025, and is posted on the [Licensed Child Care Center website](#).

[Clarification on the video security camera requirements](#) was sent on October 20, 2025.

The [Revisor of Statutes website](#) has been updated to reflect the 2025 legislative changes. The updated [Accepted College Courses to Qualify Classroom Staff resource document](#) reflects the expanded definition of “education.”

Child Care Regulations Modernization

After the legislative report is released in January 2026, stay engaged on what comes next:

- [Project website](#) (Coming soon: new DCYF website)
- [Email list signup](#)
- Shared inbox: ccregmodernization.dcyf@state.mn.us

Provider Hub

- Apply for licensing, funding and programs at [Providerhub.mn.gov](https://providerhub.mn.gov)
- Manage your license and program requirements
- Log in anytime, from any device
- Access in English, Hmong, Somali or Spanish
- [Provider Hub: Getting Started webpage](#)

Provider Hub resources

- [Provider Hub: Getting Started webpage](#)
- Refer to support articles in the [Provider Hub Basics Learning Library](#)
- Resources specific to Child Care Centers in the [Licensed Learning Library](#)

Provider Hub support

- Submit a support case in the tool
- Call 651-431-6075
- A local support team responds to cases Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- The team will connect you to the applicable licensing or program team, as needed

Provider Hub feedback

- Email us at providerhub@state.mn.us

Great Start Compensation Support Payment Program

The Great Start Compensation Support Payment Program is a nation-leading effort designed to strengthen Minnesota's child care workforce by increasing compensation and benefits for those caring directly for children.

Eligible providers currently apply each month to receive Great Start Compensation payments, ensuring that funds continue to support staff on an ongoing basis.

Great Start Compensation Program in the Provider Hub

- Centers licensed or certified by the state complete their monthly applications directly within the Provider Hub.
- The Use of Funds Report has been added to the Hub, giving providers an easier way to report how program dollars are used and the impact they're having in their programs.
- Providers can now update their Supplier ID information and manage payment preferences all within the same system.

Policy Updates & Reminders

This month, the Great Start Compensation team sent out a newsletter that included a few important policy updates and reminders about the program. Read the highlights below and [read the full October 2025 GovDelivery here](#).

- Payroll Taxes: Federal payroll taxes allowed; state payroll taxes not allowed starting January 1, 2026.
- Expense Backstop Rule: Funds may be used only for expenses on or after the designated backstop date.
- Baseline Pay Removed: The "baseline compensation" concept is no longer required funds must raise pay beyond what would have occurred without the program.
- Programs should report actual hours worked directly with children- no Full Time Equivalent (FTE) math needed.
- Get paid faster by setting up Direct Deposit

More Information and Contacts

[Great Start Compensation Support Payment Program](#)

[Great Start Compensation Support Payment FAQs](#)

For questions or more information, contact supportfunds@childcareawaremn.org or call 651-273-2644.

Child Care Center Licensing Reminders

2025 Top 5 Most Cited Topics

Training

[Orientation: MN Statute 142B.65, Subd. 1](#)

- [DCYF Orientation Training Record](#)

[Yearly In-Service: MN Statute 142B.65, Subd. 9](#)

- [DCYF Yearly In-Service Training Record](#)

Hazards

[MN Rule 9503.0140, Subp. 17](#)

Sharp objects, medicines, plastic bags, and poisonous plants and chemicals, including household supplies, must be stored out of reach of children.

Supervision

[MN Statute 142B.01, Subd. 27](#)

(a) For purposes of licensed child care centers, "supervision" means when a program staff person:

(1) is accountable for the child's care;

(2) can intervene to protect the health and safety of the child; and

(3) is within sight and hearing of the child at all times except as described in paragraphs (b) to (e).

(b) When an infant is placed in a crib room to sleep, supervision occurs when a program staff person is within sight or hearing of the infant. When supervision of a crib room is provided by sight or hearing, the center must have a plan to address the other supervision components.

(c) When a single school-age child uses the restroom within the licensed space, supervision occurs when a program staff person has knowledge of the child's activity and location and checks on the child at least every five minutes. When a school-age child uses the restroom outside the licensed space, including but not limited to field trips, supervision occurs when staff accompany children to the restroom.

(d) When a school-age child leaves the classroom but remains within the licensed space to deliver or retrieve items from the child's personal storage space, supervision occurs when a program staff person has knowledge of the child's activity and location and checks on the child at least every five minutes.

(e) When a single preschooler uses an individual, private restroom within the classroom with the door closed, supervision occurs when a program staff person has knowledge of the child's activity and location, can hear the child, and checks on the child at least every five minutes.

Background Studies

[MN Statute 245C.02, Subd. 6\(a\)](#)

Individuals affiliated with a licensed child care center must complete an enhanced background study every **five years**. This includes studies for AAs, center operators, directors, all staff, all substitutes and all unsupervised volunteers.

To comply with this requirement, new studies must be submitted and should be initiated no more than 90 calendar days before the study's expiration date.

Use your provider roster in NETStudy 2.0 to check study expiration dates. It is very important that you keep your roster up-to-date for each license number. (Separate if staff no longer working at program)

Through an agreement with DHS, DCYF will continue to cover child care background study and fingerprinting fees until further notice.

Background Studies Resources

- [MN DHS Background Studies main webpage](#)
- BGS phone number: 651-431-6620
- For child care background study related questions email: dhs.backgroundcc@state.mn.us
- For NETStudy 2.0 related questions or technical assistance email: dhs.netstudy2@state.mn.us
- Additional background study and NETStudy 2.0 resources
 - [IdentoGO-check status site](#)
 - [MN DHS NetStudy 2.0 Enhanced Study Applicant Disclosure](#)
 - [Frequently asked questions about DHS background studies](#)
 - [DHS background study information for child care providers](#)
 - [Child Care Centers Background Study Worksheet: Is a Background study required?](#)
 - [NETStudy 2.0 frequently asked questions](#)
 - [List of fingerprint locations and go-live dates for new sites](#)
 - [Frequently asked questions on IDEMIA \(the fingerprint vendor\)](#)

Cleanliness

[MN Rule 9503.0140, Subp. 9](#)

The indoor and outdoor space and equipment of the center must be clean. "Clean" means free from dirt or other contaminants that can be detected by sight, smell, or touch.

Additional resources

Early Childhood Connector newsletter and calls

Early Childhood Connector newsletter

Sign up to receive communications from the Early Childhood Connector, a cross-agency effort to provide updates to child care providers and early educators in Minnesota. This is an effort between the Minnesota Children's Cabinet and DCYF (MN Department of Children, Youth, and Families), MDE (MN Department of Education), MDH (MN Department of Health), and DHS (MN Department of Human Services). By signing up, you can expect to receive a quarterly newsletter highlighting resources, supports and updates on child care and early education from the Minnesota Children's Cabinet and Departments of Education, Health, and Human Services. Content will be tailored to licensed and nonlicensed child care, Head Start, and prekindergarten programs.

Early Childhood Connector calls

On a quarterly basis, the state hosts Connector Calls with child care providers and early educators to answer questions related to legislation, licensing, programs, grants and more. The purpose of the call is to answer clarifying questions that providers may have. Calls are hosted online on WebEx, and providers attending the call will not be on video or be able to ask questions live. Calls will be recorded and available publicly for those that weren't able to attend.

Sign up for the newsletter or learn more about the Connector Calls [on the Early Childhood Connector website](#).

Questions must be submitted two weeks before the provider call to be answered. State staff will try to answer all questions but may not have time to get to all of them.

Professional Development and Program Support

DCYF offers connections to many different types of supports to help child care and early education professionals and programs reach their highest potential. Learn more about programs like Child Care Wayfinder, Parent Aware, Develop, and supports for professional development and building quality, on our [Professional Development and Program Support](#) website.

State agency email subscriptions

DCYF emails contain updates from child care center licensing, background studies and the child care assistance program. Visit the [Licensed Child Care Centers](#) webpage to subscribe to receive emails from DCYF, including the Early Childhood Connector newsletter.