



General Assembly

February Session, 2018

Raised Bill No. 5450

LCO No. 1981



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

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

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 2018 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2018*):

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 standards established by the commissioner.
11 The office shall establish standards for school readiness programs. The
12 standards may include, but need not be limited to, guidelines for staff-
13 child interactions, curriculum content, including preliteracy
14 development, lesson plans, parent involvement, staff qualifications
15 and training, transition to school and administration. The office shall

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

22 (2) For purposes of this section:

23 (A) Prior to July 1, [2018] 2020, "staff qualifications" means there is
24 in each classroom an individual who has at least the following: (i) A
25 childhood development associate credential or an equivalent
26 credential issued by an organization approved by the commissioner
27 and twelve credits or more in early childhood education or child
28 development, as determined by the commissioner or the president of
29 the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, after consultation with
30 the commissioner, from an institution of higher education (I)
31 accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of
32 Higher Education, and (II) regionally accredited; (ii) an associate
33 degree with twelve credits or more in early childhood education or
34 child development, as determined by the commissioner or the
35 president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, after
36 consultation with the commissioner, from such an institution; (iii) a
37 four-year degree with twelve credits or more in early childhood
38 education or child development, as determined by the commissioner
39 or the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities,
40 after consultation with the commissioner, from such an institution; (iv)
41 certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in early
42 childhood education or special education; (v) an associate degree with
43 a concentration in early childhood education from an institution of
44 higher education that is regionally accredited; or (vi) a bachelor's
45 degree with a concentration in early childhood education from an
46 institution of higher education that is regionally accredited; and

47 [(B) From July 1, 2018, until June 30, 2021, "staff qualifications"
48 means that for each early childhood education program accepting state

49 funds for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such
50 program's child care program or school readiness program, (i) at least
51 fifty per cent of those individuals with the primary responsibility for a
52 classroom of children (I) hold certification pursuant to section 10-145b
53 with an endorsement in early childhood education or early childhood
54 special education, (II) have been issued an early childhood teacher
55 credential, pursuant to section 10-520b, (III) hold at least a bachelor's
56 degree with a concentration in early childhood education from an
57 institution of higher education that is regionally accredited, or (IV)
58 satisfy the requirements of subdivision (3), (4) or (5) of this subsection,
59 and (ii) such remaining individuals with the primary responsibility for
60 a classroom of children hold an associate degree with a concentration
61 in early childhood education from an institution of higher education
62 that is regionally accredited; and]

63 [(C)] (B) On and after July 1, [2021] 2020, "staff qualifications" means
64 that for each early childhood education program accepting state funds
65 for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such
66 program's child care program or school readiness program, one
67 hundred per cent of those individuals with the primary responsibility
68 for a classroom of children (i) hold certification pursuant to section 10-
69 145b with an endorsement in early childhood education or early
70 childhood special education, (ii) have been issued an early childhood
71 teacher credential, pursuant to subdivision (2) of section 10-520b, (iii)
72 hold at least [a bachelor's] an associate degree with a concentration in
73 early childhood education from an institution of higher education that
74 is regionally accredited, or (iv) satisfy the requirements of subdivision
75 (3), (4) or (5) of this subsection.

76 (3) Any individual with a bachelor's degree in early childhood
77 education or child development or a bachelor's degree and twelve
78 credits or more in early childhood education or child development,
79 who, on or before June 30, 2015, is employed by an early childhood
80 education program that accepts state funds for infant, toddler and
81 preschool spaces associated with such program's child care program or
82 school readiness program shall be considered to meet the staff

83 qualifications required under [subparagraphs] subparagraph (B) [and
84 (C)] of subdivision (2) of this subsection. No such early childhood
85 education program shall terminate any such individual from
86 employment for purposes of meeting the staff qualification
87 requirements set forth in subparagraph (B) [or (C)] of subdivision (2)
88 of this subsection.

89 (4) Any individual with an associate degree or bachelor's degree in
90 early childhood education or child development or an associate degree
91 or a bachelor's degree and twelve credits or more in early childhood
92 education or child development from an institution of higher
93 education that is regionally accredited, other than an associate degree
94 or a bachelor's degree with a concentration in early childhood
95 education, may submit documentation concerning such degree for
96 review and assessment by the office as to whether such degree has a
97 sufficient concentration in early childhood education so as to satisfy
98 the requirements set forth in [subparagraphs] subparagraph (B) [and
99 (C)] of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

100 (5) Any individual with an associate degree with twelve credits or
101 more in early childhood education or child development, as
102 determined by the commissioner or the president of the Connecticut
103 State Colleges and Universities, after consultation with the
104 commissioner, from an institution of higher education (A) accredited
105 by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher
106 Education, and (B) regionally accredited, who has been employed in
107 the same early childhood education program that accepts state funds
108 for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such
109 program's child care program or school readiness program since 1995
110 shall be considered to meet the staff qualifications required under
111 [subparagraphs] subparagraph (B) [and (C)] of subdivision (2) of this
112 subsection until June 30, 2025. On and after July 1, 2025, such
113 individual shall hold a childhood development associate credential or
114 an equivalent credential, described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision
115 (2) of this subsection, or otherwise meet the staff qualifications
116 required under subparagraph [(C)] (B) of subdivision (2) of this

117 subsection. Any such individual who terminates his or her
118 employment with such early childhood education program on or
119 before June 30, 2025, and accepts a position at another early childhood
120 education program accepting state funds for spaces associated with
121 such program's child care program or school readiness program shall
122 submit documentation of such individual's progress toward meeting
123 the staff qualification requirements set forth in subparagraph (B) [or
124 (C)] of subdivision (2) of this subsection in a manner determined by
125 the office.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	10-16p(b)

Statement of Purpose:

To revise the staff qualifications requirement for early childhood educators to require that all such educators hold at least an associate degree by July 1, 2020.

[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.]