



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

***Raised Bill No. 152***

LCO No. 659



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-514 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 (a) Not later than January 1, 2020, the Office of Early Childhood shall  
4 create a one-page document that (1) lists important developmental  
5 milestones experienced by children ages birth to five years, and (2)  
6 contains notice that any parent or guardian who is concerned that such  
7 parent or guardian's child has not met one or more such developmental  
8 milestones may access the Office of Early Childhood Child  
9 Development Infoline for information concerning appropriate services.  
10 The office shall make such document available on its Internet web site.

11 (b) On and after [February 1, 2020] July 1, 2024, each operator of a  
12 child care center, group child care home or family child care home, as  
13 described in section 19a-77, other than those centers or homes that serve  
14 school-age children exclusively, shall post a copy of the document  
15 developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in a conspicuous  
16 place on the premises of such child care center, group child care home

17 or family child care home.

18 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 17b-749 of the 2024 supplement to the  
19 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
20 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

21 (a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish and operate  
22 a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability  
23 and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker  
24 who (1) is (A) working or attending high school, or (B) subject to the  
25 provisions of subsection (d) of this section, is enrolled or participating  
26 in (i) a public or independent institution of higher education, (ii) a  
27 private career school authorized pursuant to sections 10a-22a to 10a-22o,  
28 inclusive, (iii) a job training or employment program administered by a  
29 regional workforce development board, (iv) an apprenticeship program  
30 administered by the Labor Department's office of apprenticeship  
31 training, (v) an alternate route to certification program approved by the  
32 State Board of Education, (vi) an adult education program pursuant to  
33 section 10-69 or other high school equivalency program, or (vii) a local  
34 Even Start program or other adult education program approved by the  
35 Commissioner of Early Childhood; or (2) receives cash assistance under  
36 the temporary family assistance program from the Department of Social  
37 Services and is participating in an education, training or other job  
38 preparation activity approved pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17b-  
39 688i or subsection (b) of section 17b-689d. Services available under the  
40 child care subsidy program shall include the provision of child care  
41 subsidies for children under the age of thirteen or children under the  
42 age of nineteen with special needs. The Commissioner of Early  
43 Childhood may institute a protective service class in which the  
44 commissioner may waive eligibility requirements for at-risk  
45 populations that meet the guidelines prescribed by the commissioner,  
46 and subject to review by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
47 Management. Such at-risk populations are children placed in a foster  
48 home by the Department of Children and Families and for whom the  
49 parent or legal guardian receives foster care payments, [adopted]  
50 children under the care of a caregiver who is a recipient of subsidies

51 under the subsidized guardianship program pursuant to section 17a-  
52 126, children adopted through the Department of Children and Families  
53 for one year from the date of adoption and homeless children and  
54 youths, as defined in 42 USC 11434a, as amended from time to time. The  
55 Office of Early Childhood shall open and maintain enrollment for the  
56 child care subsidy program and shall administer such program within  
57 the existing budgetary resources available. The office shall issue a notice  
58 on the office's Internet web site any time the office closes the program to  
59 new applications, changes eligibility requirements, changes program  
60 benefits or makes any other change to the program's status or terms,  
61 except the office shall not be required to issue such notice when the  
62 office expands program eligibility. Any change in the office's acceptance  
63 of new applications, eligibility requirements, program benefits or any  
64 other change to the program's status or terms for which the office is  
65 required to give notice pursuant to this subsection, shall not be effective  
66 until thirty days after the office issues such notice.

67 Sec. 3. Subsection (h) of section 17b-749 of the 2024 supplement to the  
68 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
69 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

70 (h) [On or after July 1, 2014, the commissioner shall adopt regulations,  
71 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the  
72 provisions of this section] On and after July 1, 2024, the commissioner  
73 shall implement the provisions of 45 CFR 98, as amended from time to  
74 time, to administer the child care subsidy program. The commissioner  
75 shall develop policies and procedures necessary to implement the  
76 provisions of this section.

77 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Notwithstanding the provisions of  
78 chapter 54 of the general statutes, sections 17b-749-01 to 17b-749-23,  
79 inclusive, of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies are repealed.

80 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section:

81 (1) "Early intervention services" has the same meaning as provided in  
82 section 17a-248 of the general statutes; and

83 (2) "Individualized family service plan" has the same meaning as  
84 provided in section 17a-248 of the general statutes.

85 (b) A licensed child care center, group child care home or family child  
86 care home, as such terms are described in section 19a-77 of the general  
87 statutes, shall allow a child who has an individualized family service  
88 plan and is eligible for the birth-to-three program, established under  
89 section 17a-248b of the general statutes, to receive early intervention  
90 services at such child care center, group child care home or family child  
91 care home from the service provider designated in such individualized  
92 family service plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-514
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	17b-749(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	17b-749(h)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To exclude those child care services providers that provide services to only school-age children from the requirement that they post a copy of the developmental milestones document; to include children under subsidized guardianship as part of the protective services category for the Care 4 Kids program; to replace state Care 4 Kids regulations with federal regulations and policies and procedures developed by the Commissioner of Early Childhood based on such federal regulations; and to require child care services providers to allow birth-to-three providers to deliver on-site services to certain children.

*[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.]*