

# Pinellas County License Board for Children's Centers & Family Child Care Homes

Our mission is to protect and promote the health, safety, and mental development of children cared for in children's centers and family child care homes in Pinellas County



**Faith Bornoff, M.Ed., Executive Director**  
**Commissioner Gerard, Chairperson**

## MEMORANDUM

To: Children's Center Owners and Directors

From: Faith Bornoff, Executive Director  
Jorie Massarsky, Environmental Supervisor II

Date: September 12, 2019

Subject: Decrease in Regulations for Children's Centers

The regulation regarding Education Qualifications is on pages 19 and 20 of the current *Licensing Regulations Governing Pinellas County Children's Centers*. The PCLB made the following changes to it at their regular meeting held on September 11, 2019.

### I. Personnel

#### B. Educational Credentials

##### 1. Educational Qualifications

**a. Day Nursery Workers.** Day Nursery workers (DNW) caring directly for children in any day nursery shall be high school graduates, enrolled in high school, enrolled in and attending GED classes for no more than two years, or in possession of a Certificate of Completion.

**b. School Age Center Workers.** School age center workers (SACW) caring directly for children in any school age center shall be high school graduates, enrolled in high school, enrolled in and attending GED classes for no more than two years, or in possession of a Certificate of Completion.

**Rationale:** There are many students who turn 18 years of age while still attending high school, seeking their GED or who finished high school but did not pass required end of course tests and who are potentially excellent candidates to work in the child care field. While it is certainly important for those who are working with our youth to be literate, and able to pass the 40 clock hour DCF Child Care courses, we believe that the above named group of people will have the same success rate in passing these exams as what we have seen since 2005, when the high school diploma became a requirement. Workers will have to show continued progress through high school or in obtaining a GED and of course, all will have to show mastery of the 40 Clock



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hour requirement within 15 months of start in a licensed child care program. We also believe that by allowing high school students exposure to the child care industry, they may realize that this is a career path that they wish to follow and could potentially enroll in higher education courses to work toward obtaining their Associate or Bachelor degree.

### **What this means:**

**A staff member may be hired who is 18 years of age and still attending High School or in process of getting their GED. If in High School, they have until the end of the school year to receive their diploma. If they are pursuing their GED, they must show continued progress and can be in process for up to two years. Applicants who have a Certificate of Completion may also be hired, as they have completed High School.**

**Licensing Specialists will continue to monitor for proof of education but will now accept a Certificate of Completion or evidence of High School enrollment or enrollment in a GED program, as long as the employee is at least 18 years of age. Proof of attendance in high school can be a letter from the district, a copy of a report card or a copy of a quarterly class schedule. This documentation must be updated to show continued attendance. It will be the director's responsibility to obtain documentation that supports all the above educational statuses. If a potential employee is already enrolled in a GED program, they will only have the balance of the two years to complete the program. If they have already been enrolled for more than two years, and have not obtained their GED they are not eligible for employment.**

**Implementation Date: September 12, 2019**