

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Title of Rule: Child Care Center and School Age Program Regulations for Licensure

Rule Identifier: 218-RICR-70-00-1

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: April 23, 2026

End of Public Comment: May 23, 2026

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-12.5

R.I. Gen. Laws § 40-13.2

R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-72.11

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

These updates incorporate the Rhode Island Start Early System (RISES) into the regulations, and revise outdated, unclear, or inconsistent language to improve clarity and usability. The changes are as follows:

§1.2 Updated R.I Gen. Law citations

§1.5 Removed all links

§1.5 (A) Changed 2015 to 2024

§1.5 Changed 2022 to 2019

§1.6 Updated definitions of “plan of corrective action” and “probationary license”, added definition of RISES

§1.7 (A) Added language regarding orientation and prelicensure training

§1.7 (B) Updated language and added language regarding RISES

§1.7 (C) Updated language regarding applications and RISES

§1.7 (D) Updated language regarding RISES, added language regarding application renewal

§1.7 (E)(1)(e) Removed language

§1.7 (E)(6) Added “by completing a Program Closure Request in RISES.”

§1.7 (E)(7)(b) Added “documentation”

§1.7 (G)(1)(b) Changed “may be” to “is”

§1.7 (G)(2)(d) Added “Change of ownership of a program without approval of the Department.”

§1.7 (H) Added language regarding RISES

§1.8 (A)(1)(a) added “Inspection/Certificate of Occupancy”

§1.8 (A)(1)(b) Updated to “Life Safety Fire Inspection “, changed “from a” to “completed by the”

§1.8 (A)(1)(c) Added “For buildings built after 1978, evidence of the construction date shall be provided;”

§1.8 (A)(1)(g) Added “Programs providing only pre-packaged snacks are exempt from this requirement”

§1.8 (A)(1)(i) Removed “subsequent to the date of these Regulations”

§1.8 (A)(3) Added “and”

§1.8 (B)(1) Added “in the form of formal floor plans or plan design”

§1.8 (C)(3) Removed “subsequent to the date of these Regulations”

§1.8 (D)(1) Updated language

§1.8 (D)(7) Updated language

§1.8 (D)(10) Added “new”, removed “or classroom licensed subsequent to the date of these Regulations”

§1.8 (G)(4) Updated language

§1.9 (C)(1) Defined “over the counter medication”

§1.9 (C)(6)(e) Added language regarding logging receipt/return of medication

§1.9 (D)(3) Added language regarding documentation of health care plan

§1.9 (F)(3)(g) Added “vaping”

§1.9 (F)(3)(h) Added “or vaping”

§1.9 (F)(3)(i) Updated language

§1.9 (J)(6) Added language

§1.9 (L)(1) Updated language regarding Emergency Preparedness plan

§1.9 (L)(5)(a) Added “per calendar year”, Added language for part year programs

§1.10 (A)(3) Added language regarding feeding plans

§1.10 (A)(4) Added language regarding providers supporting breastfeeding

§1.10 (A)(6) Added language regarding infants being held while bottle feeding

§1.10 (C)(6) Added language prohibiting “nap rooms”

§1.11(D) Added language regarding digital/electronic attendance documentation

§1.11(G) Added language regarding “RISES”

§1.12 (B) Added language regarding leadership roles being approved in RISES

§1.12 (B) Added language regarding requirements for School Age Site Coordinator and/or Night Time Care Coordinator

§1.12 (C)(4) Removed language

§1.12 (F)(1)(a) Added language clarifying calendar year

§1.12 (12) Added RISES language

§1.13 (A) Changed “Required Notifications” to “Changes to the Program”

§1.13 (A)(1) Added RISES language and removed “These changes are subject to approval by the Department and may require a license change”

§1.13 (A)(2) Added “(injury requiring outside medical attention”

§1.13 (F)(10) Updated language regarding workforce registry in RISES

§1.14 (F)(3) Added language prohibiting staff from using personal devices to

communicate with families

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until May 23, 2026 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Tara Borges
Department of Human Services
Office of Policy Development, Department of Human Services
Hazard Building, 41 West Road, Bldg. 74
Cranston, RI 02920
DHS.PolicyFeedBack@dhs.ri.gov

In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.8, an oral hearing will be granted if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, by a governmental agency or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within ten (10) days of the publication of this notice.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

These changes ensure that DHS is in compliance with Administration of Children and Families, Child Care and Development Fund Plan and to ensure families have access to safe child care through Child Care Centers and School Age programs.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.