

SPECIALIZED CHILD WELFARE SUBJECT MATTER

Early Childhood Education Chapter

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Policy

The Department of Children and Families shall maximize the enrollment of eligible preschool-aged foster children in eligible preschool programs.

Cross reference: "Access to Early Childhood Education Practice Guide."

Definitions

Eligible preschool program means:

- a school readiness program, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-16p;
- a preschool program offered by a local or regional board of education or regional educational service center;
- a preschool program accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children;
- a Head Start program; or
- any preschool program that the Commissioner deems suitable to meet the needs of the child.

Preschool-aged child means any child aged three to five, inclusive, who is placed in out-of-home care by DCF pursuant to an order of commitment and who is not enrolled in a preschool program or kindergarten at the time of such placement.

DCF SW Responsibilities

The assigned Social Worker shall help to maximize the enrollment of a child in an age-appropriate educational setting, including an eligible preschool program, unless the child is incapable of attending school full time due to a medical condition of the child. If the child is not enrolled or not attending full time due to a medical condition, this decision shall be reviewed and regularly-updated information shall be recorded in the child's case plan.
