



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (October 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.310)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: February 16, 2021

TIME: 10:54 AM

WSR 21-05-060

Agency: Department of Children, Youth, & Families

Subject of possible rule making: Updating **foundational quality standards for early learning programs**, including DCYF's authority to access licensed space and the consequences for refusing access, emergency exits; and immunization requirements. Rule making may include technical corrections.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCWs 43.216.055, 43.216.065, and 43.216.250

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: Uncertainty exists among licensed early learning providers about when and why the department may access licensed space and rules are needed to better clarify the department's statutory authority.

Rules to restore emergency exit requirements previously codified in chapter 170-296A WAC and erroneously repealed without adoption in chapter 300 WAC are needed to become compliant with federal safety requirements for child cares that entitle the state to receive subsidized child care appropriations.

Rules to align immunization requirements with the Department of Health's (DOH) latest immunization requirements for child cares and needed to maintain consistency between agencies and promote licensed programs' compliance with DOH requirements.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: The U.S. Administration for Children & Families, Office of Child Care administers the federal child care development fund (CCDF) and ensures that Washington and all other states receiving CCDF appropriations comply with federal requirements. DCYF submits a CCDF plan every three years to the Office of Child Care that serves as a grant application and describes how DCYF will comply with federal CCDF participation requirements. DCYF engages in any necessary rule making to implement the plan once it is approved. DCYF also collaborates with and seeks approval from the state Department of Health on rules covering health and environmental standards.

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study
- Other (describe) collaborative

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:

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Other: www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/policy-laws-rules/rule-making/participate/online

Other:

Additional comments:

Date: February 16, 2021

Name: Brenda Villarreal

Title: DCYF Rules Coordinator

Signature:

