

June 16, 2022

Dear Licensed Child Care Center Directors and On-Site Supervisors:

This letter is to inform you that Governor Reynolds has signed HF2198 into law. This law modifies the number of children that can be cared for in 2-year-old and 3-year-old classrooms and changes the minimum age requirements of staff in child care centers.

Upon signature, licensed child care centers are now permitted to modify staff ratios as follows:

- Increase 2-year-old adult to child ratio from 1 adult per 6 children to 1 adult per 7 children
- Increase 3-year-old adult to child ratio from 1 adult per 8 children to 1 adult per 10 children

Please be aware that you are not required to change your ratios but now have the flexible option of doing so if it makes sense for your individual program. Please be sure to consider square footage requirements when making your determination.

Effective July 1, 2022, 16- and 17-year-old staff may provide care to school-aged children (enrolled in Kindergarten or higher) without a staff person 18 years of age or older present in the classroom. A person 18 years of age or older with all required training completed, must be on the premises and persons under 18 are not permitted to provide transportation.

Please note, 16- and 17-year-old staff persons must go through the appropriate federal record check process, including fingerprints, in addition to Iowa based record checks.

You are encouraged to consider the staff persons education, experience, and professional development when assessing the appropriateness of increasing ratios or allowing minors to provide care to school aged youth without being in direct supervision of an adult.

The Department is in the process of developing Iowa Administrative Rules (441.109) to implement this legislation and the Guidelines for Licensed Child Care Centers, <https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/12-E.pdf?061020222107>, will be updated to provide more specific guidance on further implementation.

We will be in communication regarding any further upcoming changes.

Sincerely,

Ryan Page
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