



Early Learning Division | 775 Summer St NE, Suite 300, Salem, OR 97301

Phone: 503-373-0066 | Fax: 503-947-1955

---

TO: Ways & Means Joint Sub-committee on Education

FROM: Megan Irwin, Acting Early Learning System Director

DATE: April 30, 2015

RE: Questions pertaining to child care from April 30, 2015

Q: How many child care providers are there in Oregon?

A: We can only collect information on facilities that are either licensed or that are license-exempt and providing care for children of families receiving subsidies through Employment Related Day Care (ERDC). There are 4,320 licensed facilities and approximately 3,000 license-exempt providers (this number fluctuates on a monthly basis) serving families on ERDC.

Q: How many children are in care in each type of licensed facility?

A: While we do not maintain exact records on the number of children served in regulated facilities, we do collect information on the capacity of those programs. A program may be under capacity, or more than one child may be "sharing" a slot, if, for instance, one child was enrolled M-W-F and another T-TH.

As of March 31, 2015, the breakdown is:

- Registered Family Child Care – 24,760
- Certified Family Child Care – 9,955; Certified Center Care – 65,544.

Additionally, we have information on some license-exempt care:

- Recorded Pre-School programs – 11,461
- Recorded School-Age only programs – 38,988.

Q: Is before and after school care in public schools licensed?

A: Public school-based child care that is school-administered is exempt from regulation. However, public school-based child care that is administered by a non-profit or community-based organization must be licensed.

Q: For license-exempt providers, the parent usually has a relationship with the person providing care. Are there policies in place to protect the confidentiality of the criminal background check?



A: License-exempt providers that do not pass the criminal background check will not be able to receive subsidy payments. It is up to the provider to pursue why they did not pass the background check and the reason for denial is not shared with parent(s).

Under OAR 461-165-0410 to 0430, when a provider does not meet the background or Child Protective Services criminal check and they are ineligible to participate in ERDC, they get a letter from Background Check Unit. The provider is told why they or someone they included on the provider listing form was denied. The Direct Pay Unit sends a letter to the parent, but only to inform the parent the provider they chose did not meet all DHS requirements and cannot be listed. This is sent so the parent knows they will need to find a different provider.

Additionally, even if the provider doesn't pass the background check and cannot receive subsidy payments, the parent can still choose this provider to provide care for their child(ren) outside of the subsidy system. The state has no control over whether child care can or cannot be provided by an individual that does not pass a criminal background check and is exempt from state licensing requirements.

Q: Has there been an increase in employer-based licensed child care facilities?

A: The Early Learning Division does not track this information because most employer-based child care is exempt from regulation as parents are on-site. Some employers do choose to be licensed even if the parent is on-site.

