

Rule 2605. Staff Qualifications.

In addition to meeting all the applicable early childhood program licensing regulations of the Department for Children and Families, staff in prequalified public and private prekindergarten education programs shall meet the following qualifications:

(1) Teachers in each prekindergarten classroom in a district-operated prekindergarten education programs shall hold a valid Vermont educator license with an endorsement in either early childhood education or early childhood special education;

(2) private prequalified prekindergarten education program operated in a licensed Center Based Program shall employ, or contract for the services of, at least one teacher who holds a valid Vermont educator license with an endorsement in either early childhood education or early childhood special education. Ten hours that the licensed teacher is present shall coincide with the hours of prekindergarten education paid for by tuition from districts;

(3) The operator of each registered or licensed Family Child Care Home approved as a prequalified prekindergarten education program shall ensure that one of the following requirements is met:

(a) The operator holds a valid Vermont educator license with an endorsement in either early childhood education or early childhood special education; or

(b) The operator employs or contracts with the services of a teacher who holds a valid Vermont educator license with an endorsement in either early childhood education or early childhood special education for at least ten hours per week for 35 weeks annually. Ten hours that the licensed teacher is present shall coincide with the hours of prekindergarten education paid for by tuition from district; or

(c) The program receives regular, hands-on active training and supervision from a teacher who holds a valid Vermont educator license with an endorsement in either early childhood education or early childhood special education at least three hours per week, during each of the 35 weeks per year in which prekindergarten education is paid for by tuition from districts. The operator shall maintain appropriate written documentation of the supervision on location; and

(4) Nothing in these rules shall be construed as restricting the ability of a public or private prequalified prekindergarten education program from filling a staff position with an individual who holds a provisional or emergency license. Under such circumstances, however,, the public or private prequalified prekindergarten education program, and the holder of the provisional or emergency license, shall meet all of the terms and conditions of VSBPE Rules 5350-5364 and their successor rules. When a public or private prekindergarten program is unable to employ a licensed educator for the purpose of meeting the staff qualification requirements of these rules, a superintendent may, but is not required to, on behalf of the requesting public or private prekindergarten education

program, and pursuant to the terms and conditions of VSBPE Rules 5350-5364 and their successor rules, apply to the Agency of Education for a provisional or emergency license for one or more individual(s) whom the program wishes to employ or contract with in order to meet the staff qualifications requirements. Under such circumstances, the superintendent shall monitor the progress and completion of the required two year plan for obtaining a Level I License.