

Memo

**To: Senator Baruth,
Senate Education Committee Members**
From: Leslie Wisdom, General Counsel
Re: Act 166 STARS language
Date: April 11, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about a correction to the STARS language that is included in the prequalification section of Act 166, 16 V.S.A. §829(c). DCF is recommending a modification to this language to correct an unintended barrier to prequalification for programs with four or more STARS. Please see the suggested modifications below.

STARS language

Sec. 5 16 V.S.A. §829(c) is amended to read:

(c) Prequalification. Pursuant to rules jointly developed and overseen by the Secretaries of Education and of Human Services and adopted by the State Board pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, the Agencies jointly may determine that a private or public provider of prekindergarten education is qualified for purposes of this section and include the provider in a publicly accessible database of prequalified providers. At a minimum, the rules shall define the process by which a provider applies for and maintains prequalification status, shall identify the minimum quality standards for prequalification, and shall include the following requirements:

(1) A program of prekindergarten education, whether provided by a school district or a private provider, shall have received:

(A) National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation;
or

(B) at least four stars in the Department for Children and Families' STARS system ~~with at least two points in each of the five arenas~~; or

(C) three stars in the STARS system if the provider has developed a plan, approved by the Commissioner for Children and Families and the Secretary of Education, to achieve four or more stars in no more than two years ~~with at least two points in each of the five arenas~~, and the provider has met intermediate milestones.

Thank you.

