

1 Sec. A. 16 V.S.A. § 829 is amended to read:

2 § 829. PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION

3 \* \* \*

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

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

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

17 (B) at least four stars in the Department for Children and Families’  
18 STARS system **with a plan to get to at least two points in each of the five**  
19 **arenas**; or

20 (C) three stars in the STARS system if the provider has developed a  
21 plan, approved by the Commissioner for Children and Families and the  
22 Secretary of Education, to achieve four or more stars **with at least two points in**

1 ~~each of the five arenas in no more than three years, and the provider has met~~  
2 ~~intermediate milestones.~~

3 (2) A licensed provider shall employ or contract for the services of at  
4 least one teacher who is licensed and endorsed in early childhood education or  
5 in early childhood special education under chapter 51 of this title.

6 (3) A registered home provider that is not licensed and endorsed in early  
7 childhood education or early childhood special education shall receive regular,  
8 active supervision and training from a teacher who is licensed and endorsed in  
9 early childhood education or in early childhood special education under  
10 chapter 51 of this title.

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12 Sec. B. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.