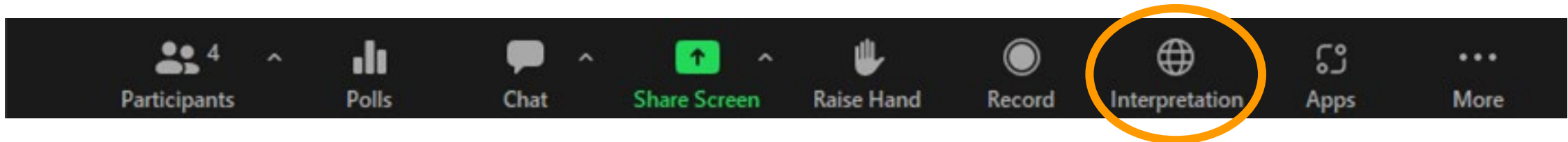


Audio en Español / Audio in Spanish

- Para acceder traducción simultánea al español por favor oprima el botón con el globo en la parte debajo de su pantalla y seleccione “Español”.
- To access interpretation to English, please click on the globe at the bottom of your computer screen and select “English.”



Seleccione “Español” aquí

QSM Update



Office of Early Childhood

Agenda

1. Background on QSM Policy Update
2. QSM Updates By Program Type
 - *Move to Breakout Rooms* –
3. Questions and Discussion

Background

Qualified Staff Member (“QSM”)

An educator who is:

- Role: Teacher (not assistant teacher) or family child care owner
- Meeting certain education qualifications
- Working in a specific classroom or home setting over 60% of the classroom’s hours

Designated Qualified Staff Member (“DQSM”)

Every state-funded program assigns a QSM (in Registry) for each classroom/home with infants through preschoolers.

Goals

- Encourage high quality early childhood education
- Support teaching staff to achieve ECE coursework and degrees

Who is this relevant for?

Applies to programs with any combo of

- ✓ School Readiness
 - ✓ Child Day Care Contract
 - ✓ State Head Start Supplement
- } Early Start CT
(July 2025 on)

- ✓ Smart Start (Teacher Certification)

Does not apply to programs

- x Receiving only Care 4 Kids
- x That do not receive state funding (i.e., any fully private pay programs)

Timeline for the Changes

Timeline shows the July 1, 2025 date, when the updated requirements take effect.

July 2025

1

Until end of June 2025:
**QSM Requirements Unchanged in
the Registry**

2

July 1, 2025 Onward:
Updated QSM Requirements Launch in the Registry

Our focus for today



Updates in the Legislation

What is Changing on July 1, 2025?

1. A more gradual **phase-in** of education requirements for DQSMs (60% of each center's DQSMs meeting degree requirements by 2030, down from 100%)
2. Educators **can be “working toward”** an early childhood degree and meet DQSM, **with supervision**
3. State-funded **family child care programs (FCCs) are included**, with slightly different requirements
4. For educators with a college **degree in any field**, more options to be a DQSM by completing **12 credits in early childhood education** (does not yet apply to FCCs)




New! Scholarships to complete 12 OEC-defined foundational college credits in ECE

- Starting May 2025, OEC will provide scholarships to complete 12 specific ECE credits at partner colleges
- Providers may be eligible if they have fewer than 12 ECE college credits, even if they have a non-ECE degree.



DQSM Options: Centers, Group Homes, License-exempt Programs

PRELIMINARY
DRAFT

Degree options starting July 1, 2025			
DQSM Bachelor's Degree Level Options	<div> Bachelor's degree (BA) or higher in ECE (Early Childhood Education)</div> <div>OR</div> <div><div> Bachelor's degree or higher in a non-ECE field, AND one of:</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ CT State Department of Ed. (CSDE) Early Childhood Certification▪ Grandfathered/Deemed to meet requirements▪ 12 OEC-defined foundational ECE credits</div></div> <div><div> OR Working toward a degree in ECE (9+ credits per year) with supervision from a BA in ECE on site</div></div>		
	July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027	July 1, 2027–June 30, 2030	July 1, 2030 onward
How These Options Phase In	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 25%+ of DQSMs meet an above degree option	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 50%+ of DQSMs meet an above degree option	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 60%+ of DQSMs meet an above degree option
	Any classroom without a DQSM must have a Teacher with a minimum of a CDA credential and an active plan to meet one of the degree options.		

DQSM Options: Centers, Group Homes and License Exempt Programs

PRELIMINARY
DRAFT



Bachelor's degree or higher in a non-ECE field, AND one of:

- **CT State Department of Ed. (CSDE) Early Childhood Certification**
- Grandfathered/Deemed to meet requirements
- 12 OEC-defined foundational ECE credits

- The CT State Department of Education (CSDE) recently added Pre-K and Kindergarten to some existing elementary education endorsements.
- For consistency across settings and policies, the **OEC will count this “added” endorsement as ECE only when the holder has 12 credits specifically in early childhood education.**

Next steps?

- ✓ Teachers should submit their transcripts for a review of these credits in the Registry.



DQSM Options: Centers, Group Homes and License Exempt Programs

PRELIMINARY
DRAFT



Bachelor's degree or higher in a non-ECE field, AND one of:

- CT State Department of Ed. (CSDE) Early Childhood Certification
- **Grandfathered/Deemed to meet requirements**
- 12 OEC-defined foundational ECE credits

☒ **Were you previously grandfathered?** Nothing will change. Educators grandfathered in 2015 all still meet QSM.

OR

☒ **Do you have 12 Early Childhood credits?** Based on provider feedback, a bachelor's degree in any field AND 12 ECE credits will be deemed to meet QSM, as long as the credits are reviewed in the Registry before July 1, 2030.



DQSM Options: Centers, Group Homes and License Exempt Programs

PRELIMINARY
DRAFT



Bachelor's degree or higher in a non-ECE field, AND one of:

- CT State Department of Ed. (CSDE) Early Childhood Certification
- Grandfathered/Deemed to meet requirements
- **12 OEC-defined foundational ECE credits**

☑ **Do you have a BA in a field other than ECE and less than 12 ECE college credits?** The OEC will provide scholarships at select colleges (e.g., Charter Oak, CT State) to get your 12 foundational ECE Credits in the following competency areas (one 3-credit class per area):

1. Introduction to Early Childhood Education
2. Child Development
3. Health, Safety, and Nutrition (content combined into one ECE specific course)
4. Child, Family, and Community

Mid-May 2025: [OEC scholarship](#) launches for the summer and fall semesters to pay for up to 12 OEC-defined foundational ECE credits!



DQSM Options: Family Child Care Owners

Options starting July 1, 2025 for all FCC Owners

DQSM Options for Family Child Care Owners



Associate degree or higher in ECE **OR**



Be working toward a degree in ECE (3+ credits a year) with off-site supervision **from someone with a BA or higher in ECE** who does not work at the child care home*

*Supervisors are people who hold a BA or higher in ECE, who are able to support reflection about curriculum and best practices.



What can providers do to prepare?

1. Ensure your **Registry account is updated with current transcripts.**
2. **Work with a Registry Advisor** for information on how to plan your next steps.
3. **Apply for a scholarship** through the Registry to pursue a degree in early childhood education.
4. **If you already hold a degree:** Do not enroll in a CDA (entry level, pre-degree) program.

A requirement
in General
Policy A-03



Breakouts by Role



Open Discussion

We want to hear from you about these updates



- ❖ Do you feel clear where you and your staff fit into the QSM updates?
- ❖ What do you want more information on?
- ❖ What else can the Office of Early Childhood do to support you as these updated requirements go into effect?

Upcoming Updates

Outreach Materials and Sessions



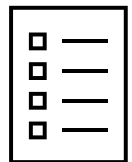
Guidance letter ahead of the General Policy



Virtual Sessions (tailored to program type)
to hear from programs and answer
questions



We are here!



Updated General Policy ("GP A-01")

Frequently Asked Questions

All materials and
sessions will be
available **in English
and Spanish**

This discussion will inform
the guidance and
frequently asked
questions

Thank You!



Office of Early Childhood