



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care

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## Meeting of the Board

*August 31, 2021*



## Adoption of Emergency Regulations – Discussion and Vote

The emergency regulations authorize the Commissioner to (1) modify educator qualifications and professional development requirements, and take other administrative measures to improve the ability of programs to hire qualified educators while maintaining the health and safety of children; and (2) issue policies and requirements pertaining to the prevention of serious illnesses, contagious diseases, and reportable diseases, including a requirement for personal protective equipment to be used in programs. The emergency regulations also change the date by which educators need to renew their CPR certifications.



## 606 CMR 7.00 Proposed Emergency Regulations: Workforce

Rationale: The proposed changes will further allow EEC to create policies that have more flexibility for early education and out of school time programs to recruit, hire and retain staff that has the EEC required professional development credentialing, certification, and training, with the goal of addressing the workforce shortage in EEC licensed programs through a more streamlined and less burdensome workforce requirements and process.

*Regulation: The Commissioner of the Department shall have the authority to implement the educator qualifications and professional development requirements of subsections 606 CMR 7.04 and 7.09 in a way that reduces the administrative burden on programs and educators. The Commissioner shall also have the authority to temporarily modify any educator qualifications and professional development requirements under subsections 606 CMR 7.04 and 7.09 if such modifications improve the ability of programs to hire qualified educators while maintaining the health and safety of children. The Commissioner of the Department shall notify the chair of the Board of Early Education and Care before implementing any modifications pursuant to this section and shall state the duration of such modification.*

## 606 CMR 7.00 Proposed Emergency Regulations: Health and Safety



Rationale: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and surge of positive cases due to the delta variant, EEC has an increasing need to protect the health and safety of children and staff of EEC licensed programs. The changes proposed will allow the Department to monitor programs on best practices that evolve through COVID-19 recovery and to adjust for resources available to our educators. These proposed changes will also allow the Department to ensure the monitoring of CPR training is as efficient and effective as possible.

*Regulation: The Department may issue policies and requirements pertaining to the prevention of serious illnesses, contagious diseases, and reportable diseases, including a requirement for personal protective equipment. The program must follow all such policies and requirements.*

*Regulation: CPR training must be renewed prior to the expiration date listed on the CPR certificate.*

**Vote:**

that the Board of Early Education and Care approves the Department's proposed revisions to 606 CMR 7.00;

the Board also authorizes the Commissioner of Early Education and Care to solicit public comment, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, on the proposed revised child care licensing regulations, subject to approval of the final regulations by the Board.

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## Next Steps