



Department of Early Education and Care

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Large Group and School Age Child Care Licensing

POLICY STATEMENT: Building Inspections

Regulations for licensure of Large Group and School Age Child Care Program (see 606 CMR 7:00) require licensee to submit evidence that each child care program is in compliance with applicable building codes.

According to the guidance provided to the Department of Early Education and Care by the State Board of Building Regulations and Standards, programs serving only school aged children do not fall within the definition of “Day Care Centers” and need not meet the building code requirements that apply to child care centers. Rather programs serving only school aged children may be classified under the Use Group A-3, Assembly category in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Building Code and may submit a building certificate reflecting this code in order to demonstrate building code compliance*. Programs who serve only school aged children may, however, choose to meet the stricter standard of Use Groups E or I-2/I-4 and submit a building certificate reflecting either of these codes to prove compliance with the building codes. Furthermore, program serving only school aged children located in public school may fulfill the requirement regarding building code compliance by submitting a current building inspection certificate that is applicable with either the entire school building or the particular classrooms used by the program.

*The Use Group A-3 Assembly classification is typically applied to Boys and Girls’ Clubs, YMCAs, YWCAs and other similar groups.