



## POLICY ADVISORY

*Field Operations 2024 - 15*

**Policy:** Compliance Requirements for Non-Relative Informal Funded Child Care Providers

**Effective Date:** 7/1/2024

**Policy link:** <https://www.mass.gov/doc/policy-updated-requirements-for-informal-funded-providers-updated-july-2024>

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### OVERVIEW

The Department of Early Education and Care's mission is to support the healthy growth and development of all children with high quality programs and resources for families and communities. The Commonwealth's early educators and caregivers play a crucial role in fulfilling this mission, and training and professional development activities serve as a foundation for their work. This policy update specifies new EEC Essentials training requirements for all non-relative informal funded child care providers.

### APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all non-relative informal funded child care providers.

### KEY UPDATES

All informal funded child care providers working with children will be required to complete the applicable EEC Essentials 2.0 training package. They must complete the entire package, regardless of the frequency that they work. Providers will also be required to take the EEC Essentials Refresher package annually.

- Those currently working as informal child care providers who have previously completed the EEC Essentials 1.0 trainings must complete all EEC Essentials 2.0 trainings by June 30, 2025.
- Those who have never before completed the EEC Essentials trainings must complete a background check and all EEC Essentials 2.0 trainings before working with children.

### RESOURCES

*EEC Essentials 2.0:*

- The [StrongStart Learning Management System](#) is a learning management

system that houses mandatory and supplemental training for early education and care program staff and can record staff completion of professional development coursework. The EEC Essentials 2.0 training package is available in the course catalog for enrollment. Help materials are available on the homepage. In addition, help is available at [StrongStartPDS@mass.gov](mailto:StrongStartPDS@mass.gov).

- Additional information, including applicable policies, FAQs, and resources in multiple languages, can be found on the [policy page](#).

## **OBSOLETE**

This policy replaces Compliance Requirements for Informal Funded Child Care Providers (Non-Relative) Policy that was previously released in December 2019.