

# State Licensing Standards for Health and Safety in Child Care -Statewide Survey

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ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN

*Joining Together for Quality Early Care and Education*

# Navigating State and Local Laws and Regulations

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- State of Idaho Licensing Codes
    - Idaho Code 39-1101, Chapter 11
      - Basic Day Care License
    - Idaho Administrative Code IDAPA 16-06-02
      - Rules Governing Standards for Child Care Licensing
  - City Codes
  - Child and Adult Care Food Program
  - Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP)
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# Current State Licensing

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## Child Care Settings:

### **Family Child Care Homes**

- 1-6 children enrolled - Not required to be state licensed

### **Group Child Care Providers**

- 7-12 children enrolled
- State requires certification—criminal history check and a fire safety inspection, but does not require compliance with health and safety standards

### **Child Care Centers**

- 13 or more children enrolled - State requires licensing

# State Licensing Ratios

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Fire safety standards in the current Idaho law requires specific staff-to-child ratios:

- 1 adult to 6 children
    - age 18 months or younger
  - 1 adult to 12 children
    - age 18 months to 5 years of age
  - 1 adult to 18 children
    - age 5 years and older
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# Requirements for State Licensure

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- Health and safety inspection
  - Fire inspection
  - Criminal history check
  - 4 hours of annual in-service training
  - Proof of childhood immunizations or an exemption form
  - Does NOT require CPR/First Aid certification
  - License and inspections are renewed every OTHER year except criminal history check
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## Exemptions from Licensing

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- ❑ Occasional care by neighbors, relative or person not ordinarily in the business of child care
  - ❑ Operation of a private or religious school for children over 4 years
  - ❑ Day camps or programs and religious schools that are open less than 12 weeks or meet less than once a week
  - ❑ Occasional care where parents remain on site in the same building
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# City Licensing

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- ❑ Statewide ten cities have ten different sets of regulations: Coeur d'Alene, Moscow, Lewiston, Orofino, Boise, Garden City, Jerome, Hailey, Pocatello, and Chubbuck, Ammon (Kuna and Meridian require state license through planning and zoning). Some cities license facilities; some license individual providers.
  - ❑ Most city licensing regulations are as comprehensive or more comprehensive than the state licensing regulations
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# Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) Requirements

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- Attend an ICCP orientation class
  - Current infant/child CPR certification
  - Current first aid certification
  - Annual health inspection
  - Follow all **applicable** state and local licensing laws
  - Sign a contract with the State of Idaho
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# Food Program

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- ❑ To receive assistance through the Food Program, ***all*** providers must be licensed, even if the state doesn't require it. For example, home providers caring for 1-6 children and group providers caring for 7-12 children must be licensed.
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# Planning and Zoning

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- ❑ The uniform building code is enforced by counties
  - ❑ The code is enforced inconsistently
  - ❑ Many people confuse zoning/building requirements with child care licensing requirements – not the same thing
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# The Cost of Licensing

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- City or state license (\$60-\$150/year)
    - Direct charge to child care programs
  - Health and safety inspections (\$35/visit)
    - Some are funded through the Department of Health and Welfare
    - Some are a direct fee to child care programs
  - Fire inspections (\$0 to \$20/visit)
    - Free service or charge to child care program
  - Criminal history check (\$45/individual)
    - Individual cost per person
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# Who Enforces these Rules?

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- Department of Health and Welfare
- Local Licensing Entities
- Local Health District
- Fire Inspectors
- Families

*POLICY: It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state to establish a minimum statewide system for the protection of children in day care centers. This system is intended to establish minimum standards, while leaving the primary responsibility for evaluation and selection of day care services with parents. Title 39- Chapter 11, Basic Day Care License*

# QUESTION?

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Does the Idaho Day Care licensing statute achieve the purpose for which it was enacted?

# Questions for Consideration:

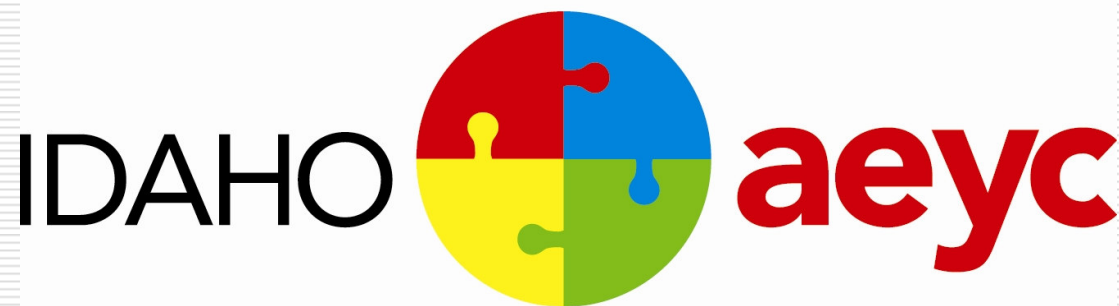
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1. Do we only want to provide minimal protection for children in centers when 85% of children in care are in group home or family settings?
2. Is the minimum in the current statute enough to protect children?

# Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children

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Idaho AEYC conducted a survey to find out which elements of basic health and safety in child care settings were important to people in Idaho.



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# Survey Results

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- ❑ 1,394 people responded
  - ❑ 734 separate comments were submitted
  - ❑ Respondents varied in background, location, age
  - ❑ 57% of the respondents were from rural Idaho (Outside Ada and Kootenai counties)
  - ❑ 70% of the respondents were parents
  - ❑ Early care and education professionals were significantly represented
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# What We Learned

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- ❑ 84% of the respondents said that standards should apply to all settings
  - ❑ 94% of the respondents said that all providers should have current CPR/First Aid certification
  - ❑ 98% of the respondents said that all persons caring for children should have a criminal background check.
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# Idaho Needs Safe and Healthy Care for our Children

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- ❑ In Idaho 60.6% of all women with children under 6 are in the labor force.
  - ❑ Quality child care programs and economic development go hand in hand. Idaho works when child care works.
  - ❑ Quality is built on a regulatory foundation.
  - ❑ The early years MATTER!
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# Local Options Not the Answer!

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- ❑ 40% of Idaho children are not covered by local child care standards.
  - ❑ Idaho's children living in rural areas wouldn't be covered even if every town and city had local child care standards.
  - ❑ City limits shouldn't limit protection for children.
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Many things can wait; children cannot.  
Today, their bones are being  
formed, their blood is being made,  
their senses are being developed. To  
them, we cannot say *tomorrow*.  
Their name is today.

Gabriela Mistral  
Nobel Laureate in Literature (1945)

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