



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

COMMISSIONER
Anne Heiligenstein

June 8, 2010

Dear Child Care Providers:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the work you do to serve the children of Texas and give them a safe, nurturing environment for part or all of their day. We are grateful to be working with child care providers who are so passionate about their work and about giving children the best possible settings to learn and grow. This is an exciting time in Child Care Licensing, and I hope that you will take the opportunity to be involved.

One of the best ways to participate right now is to review and comment on the proposed changes to the minimum standards. Input from all stakeholders is critical to adopting the best minimum standards possible, and provider input is particularly vital to creating a regulatory balance between children's health, safety, affordability & availability of care. The proposed revisions and comment forms are posted on the Child Care Licensing main page of the DFPS web site. Please contact your Licensing Representative if you have any trouble locating this information, or you can send an email to msc@dfps.state.tx.us regarding child care centers and homes or rcclstandards@dfps.state.tx.us regarding residential 24-hour care.

Revisions are proposed to every current set of minimum standards, and new standards are proposed for school age and before/after school care as well as shelter care (child care in homeless shelters and family violence shelters). The law requires that we conduct a comprehensive review of the standards every six years, so we are fulfilling that obligation for child care centers and homes. For residential care, we are refining the 2007 minimum standards. The proposed revisions to all sets of standards also incorporate legislation from 2009.

The public comment period for residential care standards, shelter care, and school age and before/after school care is from now through June 21st. The public comment period for child care center and home standards is June 11th to July 12th. Please join me in working to make these standards the best possible for our Texas children.

Sincerely,

Sasha Rasco
Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Licensing