Procedure Letter 19

TO: Early Care and Education Stakeholders

FROM: Kara B. Wente, Director

DATE: July 8, 2025

SUBJECT: Home Education Learning Pods Exempt from Required License

Background

The Department of Children and Youth (DCY) is responsible for licensing early care and education programs pursuant to section 5104.02 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). Specific programs listed in paragraph (B) of this section of the Revised Code are exempt from licensing requirements. Substitute Senate Bill No. 208 of the 135th General Assembly included new language that exempts home education learning pods from requiring a license.

Purpose

Effective **July 9, 2025**, home education learning pods will be exempt from DCY license requirements.

A "home education learning pod" is defined in section 5104.01 of the Revised Code as a voluntary association of parents who direct their children's education through home education and includes three characteristics:

1. The parents choose to group their children together in a home or other location at various times, which may include hours when home education is not provided.
2. The pod includes only the parents' children who are receiving home education, except that it also may include siblings of those children, or other children who are under the care of the parents, regardless of age.
3. At least one parent of any of the children participating in the pod must be on the premises while the pod is meeting.

Section 3321.042 of the Revised Code defines "home education" as the education of a child, between the ages of six and eighteen years of age, that is directed by the child's parent. "Home education" does not include education provided to a child who is enrolled full time in a public or chartered nonpublic school.

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ORC Section 5104.02 has been updated to reflect this new exemption. There is no change in rule.

Questions

Please contact the Family and Customer Support Center at 1-877-302-2347, option 4 or childcarepolicy@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov.

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