

**RULE IMPACT STATEMENT 210:15-11-3**

**Criteria for pilot early childhood program pursuant to Title 70 O.S. § 10-105.4 [AMENDED]**

**a. What is the purpose of the proposed rule change?**

The current rules governing the Oklahoma Early Childhood Program (OECF) were adopted in 2007, shortly after the creation of the program by the Oklahoma Legislature. The updated staffing requirements expand the background qualifications for teachers and assistant teachers to include areas beyond early childhood education while maintaining similar qualifications. This ensures that the pool of applicants is large enough to adequately staff classrooms with high-quality teachers. The updated timeframe for which programming is offered aligns more accurately with partnering childcare providers.

**b. What classes of persons will be affected by the proposed rule change and what classes of persons will bear the costs of the proposed rule change?**

The rule change will directly affect students and individuals who benefit and participate in the Oklahoma Early Childhood Program, established in 70 O.S. § 10-105.4.

**c. What classes of persons will benefit from the proposed rule change?**

The rule change will benefit students and individuals who benefit and participate in the Oklahoma Early Childhood Program, established in 70 O.S. § 10-105.4.

**d. What is the probable economic impact of the proposed rule upon affected classes of persons or political subdivisions?**

The agency does not anticipate any economic impact upon political subdivisions or affected classes as a result of implementation of the proposed rule change at this time.

**e. What is the probable cost to the agency to implement and enforce the proposed rule change?**

The agency does not anticipate any cost to the agency to implement and enforce as a result of the proposed change in the rule at this time.

**f. What is the economic impact on any political subdivision to implement the proposed rule change?**

The agency does not anticipate any economic impact on any political subdivision to implement the proposed rule change at this time.

**g. Will implementing the rule change have an adverse effect on small business as provided by the Oklahoma Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act?**

The agency does not anticipate any adverse economic impact on small business as a result of the proposed rule change at this time.

- h. **Are there any other methods which are less costly, nonregulatory, or less intrusive to achieve the purpose of the proposed rule change?**

No.

- i. **Will the rule change impact the public health, safety, and environment, and is the change designed to reduce significant risks to the public health, safety, and environment? If so, explain nature of risk and to what extent the proposed rule change will reduce the risk.**

The updated staffing requirements expand the background qualifications for teachers and assistant teachers to include areas beyond early childhood education while maintaining similar qualifications. This ensures that the pool of applicants is large enough to adequately staff classrooms with high-quality teachers. As such, the agency believes the changes will positively impact the public health, safety and environment.

- j. **What detrimental effect will there be on the public health, safety, and environment if the rule change is not implemented?**

The agency does not anticipate any detrimental effect on public health, safety, or environment as a result of failure to implement the proposed rule at this time.

- k. **Date Prepared:** February 1, 2022