

QUICK GUIDE: ECFE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Assessing Your Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) Program

The purpose of Early Childhood Family Education is to provide parenting education to support children's learning and development. The goal of this quick guide is to provide a brief overview of ECFE program requirements to help ECFE administrators ensure their program is in alignment with Minnesota statutes.

ECFE Program Requirements

ECFE programs are for children in the period of life from birth to kindergarten, for the parents and other relatives of these children, and for expectant parents. If funds are insufficient to provide programs for all children, ECFE should emphasize programming for children from birth to age three and encourage families to involve four- and five-year-old children in School Readiness programs, and other public and nonpublic early learning programs.

The table below contains program requirements listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.13, subdivision 2. Administrators who supervise ECFE programs should be knowledgeable about all ECFE requirements contained in Minnesota law. It is important to note that the program requirements apply to your program as a whole, rather than to each class or service your program provides. For example, many programs provide parenting education classes just for adults (with this type of programming, they are not required to provide structured learning activities requiring interaction between children and their parents/relatives).

ECFE Program Requirements in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.13, subdivision 2		
Does your ECFE program provide:		
1. Programming/services to educate parents and other relatives about the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of children and to enhance the skills of parents and other relatives in providing for their children's learning and development?	Y	N
2. Structured learning activities requiring interaction between children and their parents or relatives?	Y	N
3. Structured learning activities for children that promote children's development and positive interaction with peers, which are held while parents or relatives attend parent education classes?	Y	N
4. Information on related community resources?	Y	N
5. Information, materials, and activities that support the safety of children, including prevention of child abuse and neglect?	Y	N
6. A community needs assessment that identifies new and underserved populations, identifies child and family risk factors, particularly those that impact children's learning and development, and assesses family and parenting education needs in the community?	Y	N
7. Programming and services that are tailored to the needs of families and parents prioritized in the community needs assessment?	Y	N
8. Information about and, if needed, assist in making arrangements for an early childhood health and developmental screening when the child nears the third birthday?	Y	N
9. Learning experiences for children, parents, and other relatives that promote children's early literacy and, where practicable, their native language skills and activities for children that require substantial involvement of the children's parents or other relatives?	Y	N

Other ECFE Program Requirements

The table below contains additional program requirements that ECFE administrators should know. Again, administrators who supervise ECFE programs should be knowledgeable about all of the ECFE requirements contained in Minnesota law.

ECFE Program Requirements in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.13		
Does your ECFE program provide or ensure that:		
1. Parenting/family education is an integral part of every early childhood family education program (e.g., classes, services, home visiting, etc.)?	Y	N
2. It encourages parents to be aware of practices that may affect equitable development of children? (Note: the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress are an essential resource)	Y	N
3. Home visiting revenue (as part of the ECFE program) is used to provide a parenting education component that is designed to reach isolated or at-risk families?	Y	N
4. It meets the Home Visiting program requirements listed in ECFE statutes (subdivision 4)? Among others, this includes encouraging families to make a transition from home visits to site-based parenting programs.	Y	N
5. It has a reasonable sliding fee scale and waives the fees for participants unable to pay?	Y	N
6. It describes strategies to coordinate and maximize public and private community resources and reduce duplication of services?	Y	N
7. It has an advisory council comprised of parents participating in the program, who represent the demographics of the community? (Note: The district must ensure, to the extent possible, that the council includes representation of families who are racially, culturally, linguistically, and economically diverse.)	Y	N
8. The advisory council reports to the school board and the community education advisory council? (Note: for some districts, an alternative council may be the best option – see subdivision 10).	Y	N
9. It employs appropriately licensed teachers?	Y	N
10. It is supervised by a licensed early childhood teacher or a licensed parent educator?	Y	N

ECFE Options and Suggestions

The ECFE statutes also contain suggestions and options for programming and services. The table below lists a few for your review. Consult the statutes for further information.

ECFE Program in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.13		
Does your ECFE program provide:		
1. Parents of English learners with translated oral and written information to monitor the program's impact on their children's English language development, to know whether their children are progressing in their English and native language proficiency, and to actively engage with and support their children in developing their English and native language proficiency?	Y	N
2. Coordinated Adult Basic Education (ABE) and ECFE programming (e.g., family literacy)?	Y	N
3. A parenting education transition program? (Note: this is a key component of a PreK-3 rd Grade system.) See subdivision 15 for more information on how ECFE funds can be used to provide parenting education up to third grade.	Y	N

Resources

[Early Childhood Family Education Program](#) – Minnesota Statutes

[Early Childhood Family Education Program](#) – Minnesota Department of Education website

[Early Childhood Indicators of Progress](#) (ECIPs) – Minnesota Department of Education website

[Early Childhood Administration website](#) – Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education (MNAFEE)
See the “ECFE Program Enhancement” tab on the [ECFE Needs Assessment page](#).

Further Information

If you have further questions, contact the Minnesota Department of Education, Early Learning Services,
mde.els@state.mn.us