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## Child Care

### Teacher-to-Child Ratios



### Child Care Challenge

Arlington County child care programs have reported challenges complying with **both** local code and state standards governing child care programs.

### Background Information

- Arlington County is the only Virginia jurisdiction that may regulate center-based child care programs, and is one of three Virginia jurisdictions that may regulate Family Day Care Homes.
- Child Care Regulation in Arlington
  - **Center-based Child Care Programs:** Most are regulated by Chapter 52 of the Arlington County Code and the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers. Includes child care centers, preschools, nursery schools, Parent’s-Day-Out programs, and cooperative preschool programs.
  - **Family Day Care Home Child Care Programs:** Regulated by Chapter 59 of the Arlington County Code. Also regulated by the VDSS Standards for Licensed Family Day Homes if care is provided to five or more children (exclusive of the provider’s children and children residing in the home)

### CCI Action Plan

**Quality Action Step 5.** Examine local child care regulations.

- Consider aligning local codes with VDSS Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers, and submit proposed recommendations for revisions to local codes and processes (e.g., Chapter 16, Chapter 52, and Chapter 59).

### What are Teacher-to-Child Ratios?

A measure of the maximum number of children for whom a caregiver may be responsible.

<b>Center-Based</b>	Typically stated in numerical terms. For example: in Arlington child care centers, the teacher-to-child ratio for children under the age of two is 1:3. This means that one (1) caregiver could care for up to three (3) newborns. The VDSS teacher-to-child ratio for children birth up to 16 months is 1:4. This means that one (1) caregiver could care up for up four (4) newborns.
<b>Family-Based</b>	Often expressed in terms of points. Children in care are assigned a certain number of points based on their age, and each caregiver is limited to a certain total number of points. For example: in Arlington Family Day Care Homes, one caregiver is limited to a total of six (6) points. Based on Arlington point values, one (1) caregiver could care for up to three (3) newborns (two points each). VDSS limits each Family Day Care Home caregiver to 16 points. Based on VDSS point values, one (1) caregiver could care for up to four (4) newborns (four points each).

### Existing State Standards and Local Code

- Both the VDSS Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers and Chapter 52 include teacher-to-child ratios, which vary depending on the children’s age.
- The VDSS Standards for Licensed Family Day Homes and Chapter 59 include maximum point totals by provider, and each child in care – including the provider’s own children and any children who reside in the home full-time – is assigned a point value, depending on his or her age.

# Child Care

## Teacher-to-Child Ratios (cont.)

Center-Based Child Care Programs		
Age	Arlington County Chapter 52 Teacher-to-Child Ratio Requirements	VDSS Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers Teacher-to-Child Ratio Requirements
Birth up to 16 months	1:3	1:4
16 months up to 2 years	1:3	1:5
2 years	1:5	1:8
3 years	1:8	1:10
4 years	1:10	1:10
5 years	1:10	1:18
6 – 8 years	1:15	1:18
9 – 12 years	1:15	1:20
13 – 14 years	1:15	N/A

Family Day Care Home Child Care Programs		
Age	Arlington County Chapter 59 Teacher-to-Child Ratio Requirements (Maximum of 6 points per caregiver)	VDSS Standards for Licensed Family Day Homes Teacher-to-Child Ratio Requirements (Maximum of 16 points per caregiver)
Birth up to 16 months	2 points per child	4 points per child
16 months up to 2 years	2 points per child	3 points per child
2 – 4 years	1 point per child	2 points per child
5 – 9 years	1 point per child	1 point per child

### Alternative Regulations

Below are two alternatives to the existing local requirements for teacher-to-child ratio requirements. *Use the table below to think about which option you will choose to place your dot at the end of the evening.*

1. Amend Chapter 52 to align with the VDSS Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers teacher-to-child ratio requirements.
2. Amend Chapter 59 to align with the VDSS Standards for Licensed Family Day Homes teacher-to-child ratio requirements (i.e., points).

QUESTION		ANSWER (Choose one for Centers and one for Family Day Care Homes)	
Centers	1. Should Chapter 52 be changed to align with the VDSS Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers teacher-to-child ratio requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Family Day Care Homes	2. Should Chapter 59 be changed to align with the VDSS Standards for Licensed Family Day Homes teacher-to-child ratio requirements (i.e., points)?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO