

NEWS from the NORTH CAROLINA

DIVISION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY EDUCATION

WORKFORCE EDUCATION UNIT

MAY 2012

CHANGES TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/CHILD DEVELOPMENT COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS

In order to achieve a more equitable and proactive education evaluation process, all early childhood education/child development coursework will be assessed per the following changes in requirements:

★ **10 YEAR RULE FOR COMPLETED COURSEWORK**

All early childhood education/child development coursework completed by an individual with a grade of "D" or better from an accredited post-secondary/college level institution will be counted towards qualification and/or extra semester credit hours for all positions. The 10 year rule which previously mandated coursework without a certificate, diploma and/or degree will not be counted if it was completed more than 10 years prior to the date of evaluation will no longer apply. All courses which meet the criteria for countable early childhood education/child development coursework will be accepted and the date of when the coursework was completed will not be considered even if the individual has not earned a certificate, diploma and/or degree.

★ **24/30 MAXIMUM COURSEWORK HOURS COUNTED PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF A DEGREE**

Based on DCDEE child care requirements for the star rated education point system, early childhood education/child development coursework hours will not be counted past the following totals until a degree is earned:

- A total of 24 semester credit hours in early childhood education/child development coursework will be counted for the following positions: Lead Teacher, Teacher, Family Child Care Home Provider, Program Coordinator and Group Leader
- A total of 30 semester credit hours in early childhood education/child development coursework will be counted for the following positions: Early Childhood Administrator and School Age Administrator

Individuals will be informed they have reached the maximum education point level for the position(s) they are currently qualified for until they earn a degree. Therefore, the individual will no longer need to send official transcripts to the DCDEE Workforce Education Unit for evaluation until a degree has been completed, unless it is requested by the Education Unit that it is needed to complete an evaluation. Once the individual has completed a degree, they can send an official transcript documenting the degree awarded to the Education Unit to be evaluated for meeting higher education standards.