



Positive Happenings

Childcare

Childcare Programs get DHS Certified

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (MN DHS) certified all Forest Lake Area Schools childcare programs (SAC, Sonic and Steps Ahead) on November 1, 2018. The certification of license exempt childcare programs became necessary because of the 2017 legislative session that enacted many changes to bring the state of Minnesota into compliance with the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CDF) requirements. DHS certification requires that childcare programs that receive childcare assistance payments meet minimum standards that promote healthy and safe environments for children.

Next steps in the DHS certification process include:

- Continued staff training in the areas of: First Aid and CPR, Abusive Head Trauma, Child Development, Emergency Preparedness, Immunizations, Medication Administration, Preventing and Responding to Allergies and Mandated Reporting.
- Implement the NETStudy background check for staff hired after November 1, 2018
- Prepare for the DHS annual certification inspection visit by the assigned licensor between April and December 2019.



In Minnesota, 22% of children in kindergarten through fifth grade, attend school based childcare programs. This school year, the SAC, Sonic and Steps Ahead programs have 640 enrolled students. Each day, seventy district childcare staff have the opportunity to help children with social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth. Daily programming provides children with enriching, engaging and developmentally appropriate activities while reinforcing positive self-esteem and confidence. What a great partnership between home and school!

Minnesota parents strongly support after school child care programs.

- 71% of parents say that afterschool programs help them keep their jobs.
- 63% say that afterschool programs help to excite their children about learning.
- 70% of parents believe that afterschool programs reduce the likelihood that kids will engage in risky behaviors.

Contact Information

Nancy Blocher
Childcare Coordinator
nblocher@flaschools.org • (651) 982-8364

Nancy Siefert
Childcare Coordinator
nsiefert@flaschools.org • (651) 982-8316