

# THE FLINN REPORT

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Elaine Spencer, Editor

VOLUME 49

ISSUE 27

July 7, 2025

The Flinn Report is a weekly summary of regulatory actions of State agencies published in the *Illinois Register* and action taken by the Illinois General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). The Flinn Report honors founding JCAR member Representative Monroe Flinn, and is designed to inform and involve the public in changes taking place in agency administration.

## Proposed Rulemaking

### ▪ DCFS SCHOLARSHIPS

The DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES proposed amendments to the Part titled Department of Children and Family Services Scholarship Program (89 IAC 312; 49 Ill Reg 8689) reflecting recent amendments to Section 8 of the Children and Family Services Act [20 ILCS 505]. The rulemaking adds tuition and fee waivers and apprenticeship incentives to the existing program that provides college/university scholarships to youth who are or were formerly in DCFS care and have earned a diploma from an accredited high school, a State of Illinois High School Diploma, or other high school equivalency certificate.

### Scholarships

The scholarship program awards 53 (previously, 48) scholarships per year to eligible applicants who have applied to or are enrolled in an accredited college or university; 4 of

these scholarships are reserved for youth whose birth or adoptive parents or guardians are honorably discharged veterans. Applicants must provide high school or college transcripts but are no longer required to submit ACT or SAT scores. An online application portal will be open at the DCFS website from January 1 through March 31 annually. Scholarship

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awards will be determined annually in April by the Department's Scholarship Award Selection Committee, whose membership must include at least two individuals who were formerly in DCFS care and have completed their post-secondary education. Scholarships will be available to the recipient for up to 5 (previously 4) years provided the recipient is continuing to work toward completion of a degree or certificate program. Recipients must be enrolled full time in the fall and spring

semesters (this requirement may be waived for up to 2 semesters with approval from DCFS) and must maintain at least a "C" average. If a recipient's scholarship is terminated (due to failure to work toward completion of a degree, disciplinary expulsion from their college/university, etc.), the unused funds shall be reallocated to the next eligible applicant in line.

### Maintenance Grants

DCFS will provide scholarship recipients with monetary grants to assist with other expenses such as textbooks and supplies. DCFS may, but is not required to, provide maintenance grants to recipients of tuition and fee waivers. Grant payments will continue through the summer for recipients enrolled in at least 6 credit hours of summer classes or who are participating in an internship. Recipients who aged out of

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**ADOPTED RULES:** Rules adopted by agencies this week. **EMERGENCY RULES:** Temporary rules adopted for no more than 150 days.

**PROPOSED RULEMAKINGS:** Rules proposed by agencies this week, commencing a First Notice public comment period of at least 45 days.

**PEREMPTORY RULES:** Rules adopted without prior public notice or JCAR review as authorized by 5 ILCS 100/5-50.

▪ - Designates rules of special interest to small businesses, small municipalities and/or non-profit organizations. Agencies must consider comments from these groups and attempt to minimize regulatory burdens on them.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:** Submit mail, e-mail or phone calls to the agency personnel listed below each summary.

**RULE TEXT:** First Notice proposed text, emergency rule and peremptory rule text is available at the Secretary of State website (<https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/index/register/home.html>) or at the Illinois General Assembly website (<http://www.ilga.gov>) under "Illinois Register". Second Notice text for proposed rulemakings (original version with any changes made by the agency during First Notice included) is available at the JCAR website.

# Proposed Rulemaking

(cont. from page 1)

DCFS care will continue to be covered by DCFS medical assistance through age 25 (ending on their 26<sup>th</sup> birthday) while those who achieved permanent placement or adoption prior to age 18 will be covered through age 23 (ending on their 24<sup>th</sup> birthday). Scholarship awards and maintenance grants will not be terminated when the recipient marries or when they are no longer under DCFS guardianship, as long as the recipient is working toward completion of a degree or certificate.

## **Tuition & Fee Waivers**

DCFS will also make available tuition and fee waivers for up to 5 years to individuals currently or formerly in its care who have earned a high school diploma or equivalent and who enroll in a State college or university before reaching age 26. Older applicants will be considered, and their period of waiver eligibility extended, if their college enrollment was delayed due to

active duty service in the Armed Forces, US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, Peace Corps or AmeriCorps. All applicants must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to receive any available federal or State student aid. Applications will be accepted at the DCFS website.

## **Apprenticeship Incentives**

Subject to appropriation of funds, DCFS will also provide monetary assistance to individuals currently or formerly in its care toward the costs of enrolling in an apprenticeship program approved or recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor or the Illinois Department of Employment Security. Covered costs may include but are not limited to fees, tuition for required classes, work clothes and shoes (including rain gear and boots), and occupation-specific tools. This assistance can continue for up to 5 years provided the individual is making satisfactory progress toward completing the apprenticeship. Applicants must enroll in the apprenticeship program before

reaching age 26, unless their enrollment was delayed by active duty military service, service in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, Peace Corps or AmeriCorps, in which case their eligibility will be extended by their length of military or volunteer service. Applications will be accepted at the DCFS website.

## **Other**

The rulemaking also clarifies and updates various definitions relating to these programs, establishes an appeal process for recipients who are terminated from these programs, and renumbers various Sections. Those affected by this rulemaking include current or former individuals in DCFS care, the colleges or universities in which they have enrolled, or apprenticeship programs in which they have enrolled.

*Questions/requests for copies/comments through 8/20/25: Tamara Bristow, DCFS, 406 E. Monroe St., Station #65-D, Springfield IL 62701, 217-524-1983, [DCFS.Policy@illinois.gov](mailto:DCFS.Policy@illinois.gov)*

## Adopted Rule

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### • DAY CARE PROVIDERS

The DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES adopted amendments to Licensing Standards for Day Care Centers (89 IAC 407; proposed at 48 Ill Reg 15961) effective 6/18/25 at 49 Ill Reg 8719, implementing Public Act 103-821. The rulemaking, which has undergone extensive changes since 1<sup>st</sup> Notice, allows, through 6/30/29, day care staff who meet the qualifications of an early childhood teacher and have a minimum of 2,880 hours of experience at their current facility to take the place of the director during the first and last hours of the center's daily operation if the facility is open at least 8 hours per day and the director is not on site. The rulemaking codifies DCFS policies for the use of interim conditional early childhood teachers to staff classrooms for which the center has been unable to hire fully qualified early childhood teachers. The rulemaking also allows

Montessori teacher certification through an accredited program, for any age from birth through 12, to count toward qualification as a director or early childhood teacher in place of required college credit hours in child care or child development. Since 1<sup>st</sup> Notice, in response to public comment, DCFS has revised the qualifications for interim conditional early childhood teachers as follows:

-- Individuals who have completed at least 30 college credit hours and have at least 1 year experience plus 3 credit hours in child development classes, or at least 2 years' experience with no child development credits, may serve as interim conditional early childhood teachers for up to 12 months while completing the 6 child development credit hours required for certification as an early childhood teacher.

-- Individuals who are pursuing certification as a Child Development Associate (CDA) or Certified Child Care Professional (CCP) and have at least 2 years' child development experience,

with at least one year at the center where they are currently employed, and have completed at least 60 hours toward the CDA or CCP credential (including completion of Gateways to Opportunity Level 1), may serve as interim conditional early childhood teachers for up to 9 months while completing their CDA or CCP training hours and up to 15 months while awaiting issuance of their CDA or CCP credentials.

DCFS also removed the proposed sunset date of 6/30/29 for the new interim conditional teacher qualifications and has clarified or revised other conditions for the use of interim conditional teachers. Day care centers are affected by this rulemaking.

*Questions/requests for copies:*  
*Tamara Bristow, DCFS, 406 E. Monroe St., Station #65-D, Springfield IL 62701, 217-524-1983, [DCFS.Policy@illinois.gov](mailto:DCFS.Policy@illinois.gov)*

## Second Notices

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The following rulemakings were moved to Second Notice this week by the agencies listed below, commencing the JCAR review period. These rulemakings will be considered at the August 13, 2025 meeting in Springfield. Other items not published in the *Illinois Register* or The Flinn Report may also be considered. Further comments concerning these rulemakings should be addressed to JCAR at [jcar@ilga.gov](mailto:jcar@ilga.gov).

### DEPT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Public Notice of Change in License (89 IAC 376; 49 Ill Reg 1907) proposed 2/21/25

### SECRETARY OF STATE

Rulemaking in Illinois (1 IAC 100; 49 Ill Reg 1241) proposed 1/31/25

**Next JCAR Meeting: Tuesday, July 8, 11 a.m.**

Room C-600, Bilandic Bldg., 160 N. La Salle, Chicago

Meeting will be live streamed on the JCAR website

**Joint Committee on Administrative Rules**

Senator Bill Cunningham, Co-Chair

Senator Cristina Castro

Senator Donald DeWitte

Senator Dale Fowler

Senator Napoleon Harris, III

Senator Sally Turner

Representative Ryan Spain, Co-Chair

Representative Eva-Dina Delgado

Representative Jackie Haas

Representative Steven Reick

Representative Curtis Tarver, II

Representative Dave Vella

Kim Schultz, Executive Director ■ Kevin Kulavic, Deputy Director

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