



## Analizze Compliance Services

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### Segment 5: Early Childhood Education / Daycare Centers – Regulations & Rules

**When protecting childhood also means protecting credibility.**

Caring for early childhood is, above all, an act of trust. That's why early education and daycare centers serving children ages 0 to 5 operate under one of Florida's most sensitive and rigorous regulatory frameworks. In this segment, compliance is not just an obligation - it's a commitment to the safety, development, and integrity of lives in formation. Every single document - whether a fire evacuation plan or a vaccination form - signals to society the level of preparedness and responsibility of the institution.

Whether operating as a private daycare, independent preschool, VPK center, or a state-subsidized program, these institutions must comply with a complex regulatory matrix that includes:

- Mandatory licensing by the Department of Children and Families (DCF);
- Compliance with curricular standards established by the FLDOE and Early Learning Coalitions;
- Adoption of standardized health, safety, pedagogical, and facility practices;
- Minimum qualifications for all staff working with children;
- And, in many cases, integration with state and federal programs such as VPK, School Readiness, CACFP, among others.

Below are the applicable regulations and standards for this segment, categorized by scope and updated through April 2025.

#### Applicable Federal Standards

FERPA – Protection of educational records (when tied to public school systems)

ADA / Section 504 – Accessibility and reasonable accommodations

Title VI / Title IX – Racial and gender equity (when applicable)

EEOC Guidelines – Workplace equality and anti-discrimination

OSHA (29 CFR 1910) – Safety standards in child care settings

FLSA – Labor and wage standards for staff

CAPTA – Child abuse prevention and response

USDA CACFP – Nutritional standards for subsidized meal programs

Head Start Performance Standards – When receiving related funding

McKinney-Vento Act – Access protection for vulnerable children

#### Florida State Regulations

##### **Key Statutes:**

Chapter 402 – Child care facility licensing

Chapter 1002.53 / 1002.88 – VPK and School Readiness programs

Chapters 39 / 435 / 1003.21 – Child protection, staff screening, and compulsory school attendance



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### **Florida Administrative Code (FAC):**

FAC 65C-22 – Child care facility regulations (DCF)  
 FAC 65C-20 – Family Daycare Homes regulations  
 FAC 6M-4 & 6M-8 – Early Learning and VPK program rules  
 FAC 64E-11 – Sanitary standards for child care facilities  
 Florida Building Code / NFPA 101 – Structural and fire safety requirements

### **Health, Safety, and Well-being Standards**

DCF Health & Safety Checklist – Mandatory periodic assessments  
 DH Form 680 / 3040 – Required immunization and medical exam records  
 Medication Administration Records & Parental Authorization  
 Emergency and Evacuation Plans  
 Infant Safe Sleep Practice Rules  
 Safe Transport Protocols – For centers providing school transportation

### **Staff Qualifications and Professional Development**

Staff Credentialing Guidelines (CDA or equivalent)  
 30-Hour Introductory Child Care Training (mandatory)  
 10 Hours of Annual In-Service Training  
 Infant CPR & First Aid Certification  
 Director's Credential Certification

### **Supplemental and Voluntary Programs (if applicable)**

FLDOE VPK Approved Curriculum List  
 Contracts with Early Learning Coalitions (state funding)  
 Gold Seal Quality Care Program Standards  
 ELPFP (Early Learning Performance Funding Program)  
 Voluntary Accreditations (NAEYC, APPLE, NECPA, Cognia, etc.)  
 Assessment and Observation Tools (CLASS, TS GOLD, etc.)

**Note:** In early childhood education, documentation compliance is synonymous with credibility - especially in the eyes of families, regulators, and public funders. Analizze's automated verification identifies regulatory gaps that, while seemingly minor, may pose serious reputational, operational, or legal risks.