

The following comments are taken from the Public Comment Portal, and are categorized by comment type as seen below.

Comment Type	Definition
Substantive	This type of comment provides a proposed alternative or change in language.
Commentary	This type of comment provides positive or negative opinions on the regulation, and proposed no alternative or change in language.
Mechanical Edits	This type of comment provides grammar or sentence structure edits.
Other	This type of comment is unique from the other categories.

Comment Type	Enforcement	Total Count
Substantive	7	7
Commentary	32	32
Mechanical Edits	0	0
Other	5	5
Total	44	44

Category Title	SubSections	Weighted Comment	Weighted Value	Date Submitted	Comments	Concur Type	Comment Type
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing	170-300-0400				I agree, and I think that it's important to also have questions related to		
Process	Application materials	No		5/30/2017 16:58	child endangerment and involvement such as have you ever _____?	Agree	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing	170-300-0400						
Process	Application materials	Yes	1	6/10/2017 12:33	all weights should be removed.	Disagree	Substantive
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing	170-300-0400				I do not agree with the following change: 170-300-0405 Background check fees. Our industry has high turnover and a hefty expense to facilities. I personally own a facility in a college town and several of our aids rotate out each semester. If an individual wants to work in child care, it should be their responsibility to cover their own background fees as it is something that will remain their after employment is terminated from a certain center. This is the explanation I give to new hires. "The portable background check and fingerprinting is a requirement to work in this industry, but something you will always have if you would like to remain working in this industry." I do not mind having the CHOICE to pay the fee for the renewal after 3 years.		
Process	Application materials	No		6/27/2017 13:12		Disagree	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing	170-300-0400				The funny thing about this one is that it has already been voted in! I received an email this morning from DEL of some WACs that were voted in early (without forewarning I might add) and this is one of them. Just so you know any of your comments on this particular WAC won't make a bit of difference -- they're going to do whatever they want anyways.		
Process	Application materials	No		6/27/2017 14:01		Neutral	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing	170-300-0400				May I suggest the 90 day timeline be changed to 120 day's to complete the licensing process. It is much more complicated and time consuming for applicants it often takes more than 90 days for applicants to really be ready for inspection and then more time to make any corrections. It would save time and paperwork withdrawing the application and accepting another application , processing it for a few more weeks to complete the licensing process.		
Process	Application materials	No		7/6/2017 22:11		Neutral	Substantive
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing	170-300-0400				Please post the Small Business Impact for this WAC on one form. It is too hard to search for all the business impacts listed by thumbing through the crosswalk WAC showing the end product through alignment.		
Process	Application materials	No		7/9/2017 15:50		Neutral	Other

Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0441 Department action scoring approach	No	5/23/2017 9:48	Is proposed WAC 170-300-0441 similar to Early Achievers, or a way to envelop Early Achievers program into the DEL? I am not against a scoring system, but to have two separate scoring systems in place seems redundant. Where will these scores be posted? Is there any way to contest our scores?	Neutral	Other
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0441 Department action scoring approach	No	5/25/2017 7:10	I do not agree with a weighted license. I think that licensing is already so subjective to who your licenser is and then to make all of the WAC's based on a weight system is not really fair. Locally I know different licensors look for different things, and what one licensor does not agree with one does. So locally different centers are allowed or not allowed to do things. By having your license weighted will not be fair to the different centers.	Disagree	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0441 Department action scoring approach	No	5/26/2017 14:48	Seems unfair when so much of the compliance info is subjective and based on a licensor's interpretation of a situation or what they believe to be important to focus on. For example, one licensor might decide a windowsill has too much dust on it and say it's a health hazard for children and write it up, while someone else considers dust to be something that happens and is not dangerous to children and therefore not write it up.	Disagree	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0441 Department action scoring approach	No	5/27/2017 12:59	IF NEW WACS STATE SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BACKTRACK FOR THREE YEARS LAST VISIT0.K. AND I FEEL THAT SOMETOIMES WRITE UPS ARE BLOWN UP WHEN THEY COME AND WERE BUSY AND THEN PTOVIDERS ARE NOOT ABKE TO DI THEUR JIJOB PROPERLY AND SME DAYS THEY JUST HAPPEN TO COME ON BAD EVERYTHING WRONG DAY BUT ITS TREATED AS EVERY DAY170=3000441	Disagree	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0441 Department action scoring approach	No	5/29/2017 17:30	I understand the reasoning behind a scoring approach, but am concerned about how it will be implemented and enforced. Licensing is already so very subjective; what one licensor says is OK, another will say it is not. There is very little consistency between licensing. It is already confusing. A scoring system approach could make it even more confusing.	Neutral	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0441 Department action scoring approach	No	5/29/2017 17:53	While I understand the need for a scoring approach and system, I am concerned about the subjectivity in licensing. It often seems what one licensor says is OK, another will disagree with and say it is not. How can a center know what to do or how they will be scored when the licensing is so inconsistent and subjective?	Neutral	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0441 Department action scoring approach	No	5/30/2017 14:02	I find this very unfair. It seems to me that we are already under so much pressure every time the licensor shows up. We don't know what kind of mood she will be in and how she will view our center. Have had things okay one time (many years in a row) and then all of a sudden it is not okay and is put on a compliance agreement.	Disagree	Commentary

Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0441 Department action scoring approach	No	5/31/2017 12:58	There is a concern over the 36 month averaging. Providers are to be reviewed every year and most are, but, there are several examples I have found in King County, where a provider has not had a licensing visit in more than 18 months. This would result in inconsistent and unfair licensing scores. There are examples of providers with as many as 31 complaints showing in Child Care Check in a period exceeding 36 months. How are these accounted for in the averaging?	Disagree	Other
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0441 Department action scoring approach	No	5/31/2017 13:04	I do not remember seeing any results from the survey which asked participants to assign weight to each item. Can a link to the results be added?	Disagree	Other
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0441 Department action scoring approach	No	6/11/2017 21:38	Really? More scoring. As part of Early Achievers I am so worn out with coaches and ratings and paperwork. So yet one more person with a clipboard comes in and tells me a couple times a year what I rate at? I just jump through the hoops of licensing so I can be rated by the only people I really care about- the families I serve. I used to love my job but the true art of what we do is being sucked out and replaced with so much oversight we can barely do our jobs. It's sad.	Neutral	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0441 Department action scoring approach	No	6/12/2017 10:14	this is scoring in NOTHING like EA. EA scores you for the good things...this is scoring us for the bad things. I feel the scoring needs to be removed. Having a licenser scourer our homes is hard enough. and now they are going to score us and embarrass us by posting the score on "childcare check"; ALL weights should be removed...FLCA's are bad enough.	Disagree	Substantive
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0441 Department action scoring approach	No	6/12/2017 10:22	This is not necessary. The scoring should be removed. Providers are under enough stress and not knowing how a Licensor will treat us when she walks in is even worse. Licensing tag teams me ...I always have two licenser visit my home. This is stressful enough and now you are going to score our mistakes. Son't do this to us.	Disagree	Substantive
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0441 Department action scoring approach	No	6/14/2017 14:15	Please see my examples of how penalties would be used in reference to specific WAC's under Compliance and Enforcement. This penalty system has no rhyme or reason. There are MINOR paperwork issues (like a parent leaving blank the spot for "date of last dental exam") that are weighed at a SEVEN!! DEL can suspend your license for any violation that is as high as a SEVEN. Shouldn't a high risk violation of a 7 be reserved for things that actually put a child at risk of harm - like someone finding them in a parking lot!?!	Disagree	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0441 Department action scoring approach	No	6/14/2017 17:52	DEL needs to move away from a penalty system for items that have nothing to do with keeping children safe. Maybe incentivize programs that ARE meeting these subjective non-safety related items. Oh wait! that's what Early Achievers is doing!	Disagree	Commentary

Program Administration and Oversight -	170-300-0441							
Licensing Process	Department action scoring approach	Yes	NA	7/3/2017 8:02	All weights need to be removed.		Disagree	Substantive
Program Administration and Oversight -	170-300-0441							
Licensing Process	Department action scoring approach	Yes	NA	7/4/2017 6:44	Okay, really! All weights need to be removed.		Disagree	Substantive
					170-300-0441 - scoring. Unclear about rationale regarding scoring (weights) of many WACs. Some licenser ok with some areas - others come in and cite you. Some WACs weighted to high - EX. on enrollment papers, parent forgot to put down dentist or has no dentist(child is an infant)- and that's considered an extreme safety factor for children? - not. Committee needs to rethink many of the weighted/scoring. Let's get back to the quality of care for children and not bog down/be cited for paperwork which makes us think we aren't doing the great job that we are. Scoring will say we aren't but enrolled parents can see that we are and those looking for care will read a crummy score and not want their children in your program. Not fair.		Disagree	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight -	170-300-0441							
Licensing Process	Department action scoring approach	No		7/10/2017 13:47			Disagree	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight -	170-300-0441							
Licensing Process	Department action scoring approach	No		7/18/2017 20:41	While a applicant is getting licensed and receives a compliance after getting inspected but before they are licensed will the weights already start adding up even before the license is issued?		Neutral	Other
Program Administration and Oversight -	170-300-0442							
Licensing Process	Compliance and enforcement actions	No		5/23/2017 10:02	Proposed WAC 170-300-0442 This WAC proposal is so new that I am not sure how it will play out. I am uneasy, and am not sure how it will affect my business. I don't believe it is bad, per se, but the fact that I don't know the effects scares me.		Neutral	Commentary

Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0442 Compliance and enforcement actions	No	6/7/2017 11:13	170-300-0442 (d) An early learning provider allows a person who is not qualified by training, experience, or suitability under this chapter to care for or be in contact with children in care. This is extreme to me. If a have a volunteer come from a dental practice to do activities with the children, they may not necessarily have training or experience or be suited for working with children but they are there providing education for the children and must actually have contact with the children to be effective. This particular part needs a little more detail to create better understanding of the intention to prevent "contact with children in care." If I have a grandpa who comes to visit with his grandson and is not properly trained or experienced in dealing with children, that would mean that I'm out of compliance by letting him have contact with the children in care. There needs to be a more specific purpose in this item or more details on the intention of this item.	Disagree	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0442 Compliance and enforcement actions	No	6/12/2017 10:29	This is confusing!!!! "The department shall also assess a civil monetary penalty (fine) if during the site visit the licensor finds that the provider violated a rule of this weight four (five or more times within the previous 36 months." Does this mean ANY rule with a score of 4+ or just that particular rule with the 4??? We do not make a lot of money. Providers usually do childcare because they love the children and want to make a difference in the child's lives. And "fining"; us will only force providers out of this business. Please remove the mines.	Disagree	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0442 Compliance and enforcement actions	No	6/12/2017 10:35	Licensing usually stays a a facility until they find something to write a provider up for. They only stop when they have actually find something to write down. These fines will be detrimental to a provider and their family. What other independence owned business is fined for such things???	Disagree	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0442 Compliance and enforcement actions	No	6/13/2017 20:15	In trying to understand this new scoring/penalty/fine system, and looking at ONE example of how it would be applied " a weight of 6 is applied to WAC 170-300-0460, item (5) (f) on Child Records. So if a parent does not fill in the date of the child's last physical and/or dental exam, and this violation occurs two or more times in 36 months " THERE WILL BE A FINE, technical assistance and the provider must create a Safety Plan!!! This is about paperwork. A parent may not have yet taken their child in for a dental exam (as is their right, regardless of our opinion).	Disagree	Commentary

Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0442 Compliance and enforcement actions	No	6/13/2017 20:37	Looking at an example of how the new scoring/penalty system could be applied " weight of 6 is attached to WAC 170-300-0460, item (4) (g) (v) on Child Records. A parent must provide permission in writing regarding a very OBVIOUS (with monitors for parent viewing) video camera system, and this violation occurs two or more times in 36 months - THERE WILL BE A FINE, technical assistance and the provider must create a Safety Plan!!! The camera system cannot be missed as families tour the facility, yet it must be mentioned in writing so that parents can sign permission for the center to continue to use the system?!	Disagree	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0442 Compliance and enforcement actions	No	6/13/2017 20:46	An example of applying the new scoring/penalty system " weight 6 is attached to WAC 170-300-0460, item (4) (a) on Child Records. Now providers must document the END date for children no longer enrolled in the child care center/family home. If that END date is not documented and this violation occurs two times in 36 months - THERE WILL BE A FINE, technical assistance and the provider must create a Safety Plan!!! This is a minor paperwork note, is a NEW and unnecessary requirement, and it does not have any bearing on the safety and well-being of any child. This is absurd. Seriously " is DEL not reading and calculating any of this and realizing the absurdity of this over-regulated penalty system?	Disagree	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0442 Compliance and enforcement actions	No	6/13/2017 20:57	An example of applying the new scoring/penalty system " weight 6 is attached to WAC 170-300-0505, item (9) (a) on Postings. A child care provider must post emergency phone numbers for Poison Control, CPS, and 911 (yes, the number for 911 must be posted), and the address and directions to the center from a cross street. If the number for 911 is not posted, or any other number/information is not posted and this violation occurs two times in 36 months - THERE WILL BE A FINE, technical assistance and the provider must create a Safety Plan!!! Things happen " staff rearrange bulletin boards, postings fall down, postings are updated, and if someone forgets to list 911 " the provider gets penalized.	Disagree	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0442 Compliance and enforcement actions	No	6/13/2017 21:07	An example of applying the new scoring/penalty system " weight 4 is attached to WAC 170-300-0065, item (2) (b) on School readiness and family engagement activities. This WAC requires that providers supply families with local school district activities. A provider that fails to provide this to families four times in 36 months - THERE WILL BE A FINE and technical assistance. This WAC has no bearing on the safety and well-being of any child in their care. This is relevant to local school districts and families should be responsible for seeking this information. Providers should never be penalized for things that are provided to parents as a courtesy " this should not be required or regulated.	Disagree	Commentary

<p>Program Administration and Oversight - 170-300-0442 Licensing Process</p>	<p>Compliance and enforcement actions</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>6/13/2017 21:16</p>	<p>An example of applying the new scoring/penalty system " weight 4 is attached to WAC 170-300-0055, items (1) and (2) on Developmental screening, communication to parents or guardians. This WAC requires that providers communicate with families the importance of developmental screenings, document such communications, and provide information about agencies that provide screenings. A provider that fails to provide this to families four times in 36 months - THERE WILL BE A FINE and technical assistance. This WAC has no bearing on the safety and well-being of any child in their care. Providers should never be penalized for things that are provided to parents as a courtesy " this should not be required or regulated. This is due to the State deciding to align the WAC's with State run ECEAP centers, who have the State funding for extra time and staffing to provide additional services.</p>	<p>Disagree</p>	<p>Commentary</p>
<p>Program Administration and Oversight - 170-300-0442 Licensing Process</p>	<p>Compliance and enforcement actions</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>6/13/2017 21:32</p>	<p>An example of applying the new scoring/penalty system " weight 5 is attached to WAC 170-300-0195, items (3) (g) on Food service, equipment, and practices. This section of the WAC requires that providers "sit with children during meals and snacks and engage in pleasant conversation" and yes, that is best practice yet there are situations that arise that require a staff member get up and assist children for a variety of reasons. A licenser would be able to " at their discretion " write up a provider that is not sitting, and if this occurs three times in 36 months - THERE WILL BE A FINE and technical assistance. This is another example of over-regulation, especially since this is a scenario that does not impact the safety and well-being of any child.</p>	<p>Disagree</p>	<p>Commentary</p>
<p>Program Administration and Oversight - 170-300-0442 Licensing Process</p>	<p>Compliance and enforcement actions</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>6/13/2017 21:48</p>	<p>An example of applying the new scoring/penalty system " weight 7 is attached to WAC 170-300-0106, items (5) on Training Requirements. Apparently DEL will be providing training on "Recognizing and Reporting Suspected Child Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation" and it must be completed by each employee BEFORE they actually begin working (which is a problem in itself for a variety of reasons). If an assistant or another staff member begins working (under the supervision of another qualified staff member) and has not completed that training ON DAY ONE, and this violation occurs ONE time in 36 months " the license could be SUSPENDED or put in a probationary status, there will be a hefty fine (\$250 per day), technical assistance and the provider must create a Safety Plan!</p>	<p>Disagree</p>	<p>Commentary</p>

<p>Program Administration and Oversight - 170-300-0442 Licensing Compliance and Process enforcement actions</p>	No	6/13/2017 22:01	<p>An example of applying the new scoring/penalty system " weight 7 is attached to WAC 170-300-0200, items (4) (a) on Handwashing and hand sanitizer. That section of the WAC states that "staff must wash their hands" when arriving at work" can imagine scenarios that could distract a staff member from immediately washing their hands - families engage staff in conversation, a child is having a hard time separating from their parent in the morning, or a child stumbles and bumps their head on something. Sometimes dealing with an immediate issue could take priority over a staff member heading directly to a handwashing sink, yet if a licenser observes this ONE time in 36 months " the license could be SUSPENDED or put in a probationary status, there will be a hefty fine (\$250 per day), technical assistance and the provider must create a Safety Plan! This penalty system is just so disappointing. We ALL can agree that if a child walks out the door of a facility there should be harsh penalties, but some of these weighed items being on equal basis of a serious supervision violation is unbelievable.</p>	Disagree	Commentary
<p>Program Administration and Oversight - 170-300-0442 Licensing Compliance and Process enforcement actions</p>	No	6/14/2017 14:09	<p>An example of applying the new scoring/penalty system " weight 7 is attached to WAC 170-300-0170, item (3) (j) on Fire Safety. This section of the proposed WAC pertains to records of MONTHLY inspections of items that include Fire Extinguishers, which are only inspected yearly in EVERY business in the State. I would venture to guess that ALL child care centers are scheduled with a company that conducts these yearly inspections. Yet, this would change that to require fire extinguishers be inspected monthly? AND" if this violation occurs ONE time in 36 months " the license could be SUSPENDED or put in a probationary status, there will be a hefty fine (\$250 per day), technical assistance and the provider must create a Safety Plan! Please" someone do some reviewing and editing of this weighted system. The idea of the weighted system was to protect children, yet this does nothing to accomplish that.</p>	Disagree	Commentary
<p>Program Administration and Oversight - 170-300-0442 Licensing Compliance and Process enforcement actions</p>	No	6/14/2017 17:31	<p>An example of applying the new scoring/penalty system " weight 6 is attached to WAC 170-300-0285, item (2) on Infant and toddler nutrition and feeding. One item in this section states that the provider shall "not allow infants or toddler to be propped with bottles or given a bottle or cup when lying down" As with other sections of this WAC "toddlers" need to be separated from "infant" in the language. A child that has never been in child care may have difficulty at naptime without their bottle (that they use at home to fall asleep) and a sippy cup of water sometimes help with the transition. This would not be allowed, and if this violation occurs two times in 36 months - THERE WILL BE A FINE, technical assistance and the provider must create a Safety Plan!! How is this in the best interest of the child?</p>	Disagree	Commentary

Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0442 Compliance and enforcement actions	No	6/14/2017 17:38	An example of applying the new scoring/penalty system " weight 6 is attached to WAC 170-300-0285, item (2) (b) on Infant and toddler nutrition and feeding. As with other sections of this WAC "toddlers" need to be separated from "infant" in the language. This item in the WAC states that providers must be "feeding infants and toddlers when hungry" "Toddlers are on a schedule, with planned mealtimes. This would not be allowed anymore? We sometimes have parents arrive after a mealtime and they know they are welcome to sit with their child so he/she can have the meal, but the staff are keeping to their schedule and cannot be expected to move the class back into the dining room to accommodate one late arrival. If this violation occurs two times in 36 months - THERE WILL BE A FINE, technical assistance and the provider must create a Safety Plan!!	Disagree	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0442 Compliance and enforcement actions	No	6/14/2017 17:53	DEL needs to move away from a penalty system for items that have nothing to do with keeping children safe. Maybe incentivize programs that ARE meeting these subjective non-safety related items. Oh wait! that's what Early Achievers is doing!	Disagree	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0442 Compliance and enforcement actions	No	6/16/2017 7:19	170-300-0442 This rule as written states that fine will be imposed if a violation with the same weight occurs X amount of times. So if during an inspection four separate rules weighted as a 5 are violated, it's an automatic fine. It doesn't have to be the same rule, correct? I haven't totaled the weighted numbers yet (how many 5s 6s ect.)but at first glance, most of the rules seem to be above a 6 which could be a great deal of money. Where would the money collected from fines go?	Disagree	Substantive
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0443 Enforcement actions, notice and appeal	No	6/12/2017 10:40	Please do not fine providers...we work for such little money and when DEL imposes HUGE licensing requirements and strains the providers income, we then have to pass that on to the parents which then stresses the families we care for. Our taxes are high enough...does DEL really need this money? Where will this money be placed and what will it be used for? Will a licensor fine a provider out of business? Please remove all weights and fines.	Disagree	Commentary
Program Administration and Oversight - Licensing Process	170-300-0443 Enforcement actions, notice and appeal	No	6/14/2017 14:10	Please see my comments under Compliance and Enforcement.	Disagree	Commentary