

## Child Care

### Definitions of Full and Part Time

(Adapted from Child Care Connection: [www.childcare-connection.org](http://www.childcare-connection.org))

#### THE PROBLEM:

The proposed FY 2010-2011 budget seeks to change the definitions of full-time, part-time and hourly rates of care.

- Full time care would be defined as 35 hours per week rather than the current 25 hours per week.
- Part-time care would be defined as 34.9 hours to 10 hours instead of 24.9 to 7 hours.

**This simple technical change will have a dramatic effect on child care and early learning centers which must staff their programs to meet enrollment, not attendance. The resulting fixed costs can't be met if the proposed change is enacted.**

The impact of this change would be devastating to local program budgets and the ability of programs to continue to care for children. Anticipated effects include:

- Approximately 6,000 jobs would be lost as providers lay off child care teachers and staff
- Access to care for low-income children in Ohio would be cut from 25% to 50% as providers stop accepting subsidized child care children while at the same time parents are working more erratic hours and piecing together part-time jobs
- School age care is particularly at risk leading to more children home alone after school and during the summer with few alternatives for positive and supervised settings
- Providers may drop out of Step Up to Quality and other quality initiatives
- Dramatic reduction in the quality of early learning programs will result in the dramatic reduction of children's kindergarten readiness
- Reduce ability of parents' ability to work without absences, interruptions or reduced productivity due to concerns about their children's care

#### WHAT WE WANT:

- Keep Full time hours at 25 hours per week.
- Keep Part time hours from 24.9 to 7 hours per week.
- Maintain child care eligibility at 200% of the poverty line.
- Increase reimbursements to child care centers to include holidays and a reasonable number of days to cover absences, sick days and holidays. Child care centers are paid a set fee for the week or month regardless of whether the child is absent or the center is closed because of holidays or snow days.