



Board of County Commissioners

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Childcare Licensing and Appeals
Colorado Office of Early Childhood
Division of Early Care and Learning
1575 Sherman St, 1st Floor
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Panelists:

For more than 25 years, YouthPower365 has provided extended learning year-round that inspires, educates, and empowers the youth and families of Eagle County from cradle to career. YouthPower365's PwrHrs Afterschool program is critical for our working families, and it has a significant, positive impact on the academic performance and social emotional wellbeing of the youth in our valley.

The children and families served by Youtpower365's programs are in need academically, financially, and emotionally. PwrHrs Afterschool also provides enriching opportunities that our children do not normally have access to and offers free transportation home, which meets the needs of working families in our school district. YouthPower365 provides these programs either free or at minimal cost. Afterschool academic intervention and enrichment is facilitated by qualified teachers, and is what our community needs to thrive.

As Eagle County Commissioners, we are passionate about the education and safety of our local children. We also firmly believe that licensed teachers in our school district are incredibly qualified, dedicated, and hardworking.

This has been an incredibly stressful few years, with staff shortages in the district and the ongoing, lasting impact of the pandemic on children and families. Some of the training being required by Colorado State Childcare Licensing is a duplication of requirements of the school district and adds another daunting, arduous task for teachers who are already overwhelmed.

By lifting some requirements on licensed teachers, we believe there will be no risk to the quality of the programs for our children, and it will make it easier for teachers and YouthPower365 to continue their important impact on children beyond the bell.

Sincerely,

Matt Scherr
Chair

Jeanne McQueeney
Commissioner

Kathy Chandler-Henry
Commissioner