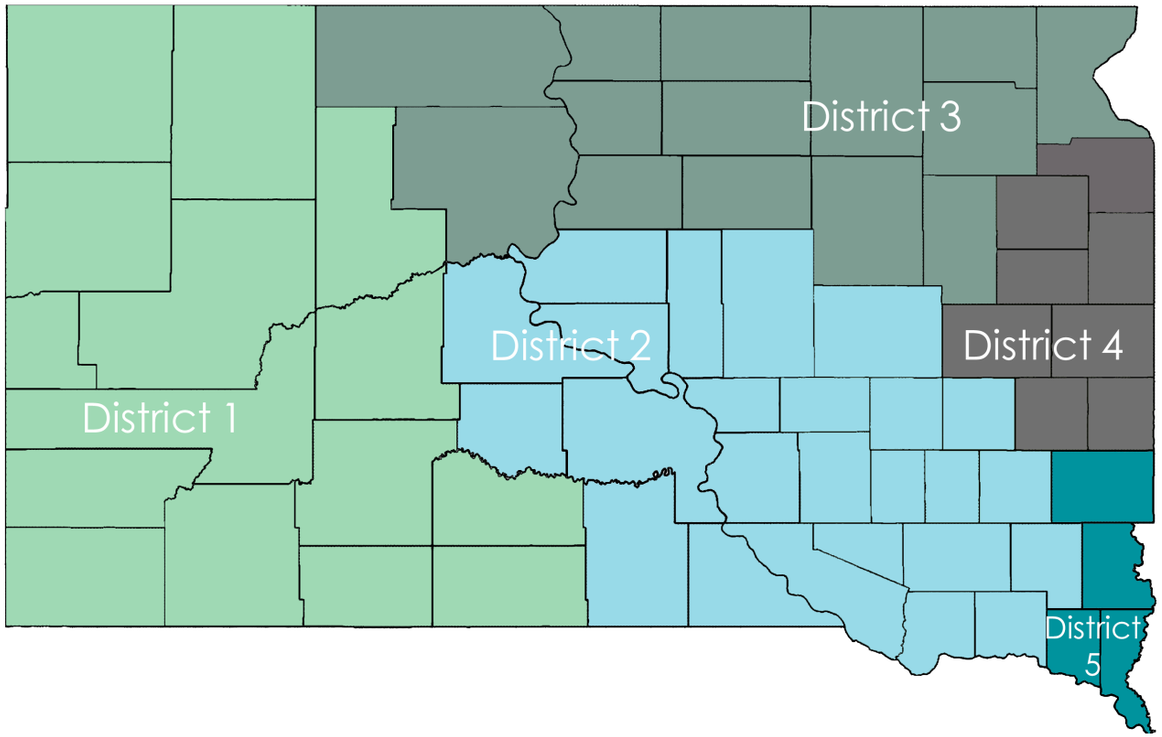
Child Care Services Licensing Map



District 1
221 Mall Drive; Suite 101, PO Box 6221
Rapid City, SD 57709
605.394.2525 or 800.644.2914

District 2
116 E 11th Ave
Mitchell, SD 57301
605.995.8000 or 800.231.8346

District 3
3401 10th Ave SE
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.626.3160 or 866.239.8855

District 4
1310 S Main Ave, Suite 101
Brookings, SD 57006
605.318.9477 or 866.267.5228

District 5
1501 S. Highline Ave, Suite 2E
Sioux Falls, SD 57110
605.367.5444 or 866.801.5421

Office of Licensing and Accreditation

700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

605.773.4766 or
800.227.3020

dss.sd.gov/childcare/

South Dakota Department of Social Services

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Registration and Licensure of Child Care Environments

South Dakota Department of Social Services

Child Care Licensing

The Department of Social Services Office of Licensing and Accreditation is committed to improving the quality, availability and affordability of child care in South Dakota.

Help is available for parents, child care providers and others to promote the importance of providing safe, healthy and caring environments for children.



Child Care Environments

Each child care program offers unique features and services for children and families. However, every family expects their child to receive quality, safe care.

South Dakota's minimum child care regulations establish a foundation for basic health and safety on which a quality child care program can be built. Minimum regulations address:

- Number of staff needed.
- Nutritious meals and snacks.
- Amount of space needed.
- Types of program activities.
- Ages and qualifications for staff.
- Health practices.
- Fire and life safety features.

The safety and quality of child care programs is further enhanced by training, technical assistance and funding available through Child Care Services.

Child Care Categories

South Dakota law defines the following types of child care programs currently registered and licensed in the state:

- Registered Family Day Care – The care of 12 or fewer children in the provider's own home. Registration is voluntary.
- Licensed Day Care Center – The care of 13 or more children.
- Licensed Before & After School Center – The care of 13 or more children. The facility cares for only school-aged children.

Licensed and registered programs may be eligible for public funding (Child and Adult Food Program, Child Care Assistance Program, etc).

By law, licensure is mandatory when care is provided to 13 or more children, regardless of the age of the children and regardless if care is in a home or separate facility.



Consumer Protection Services

Communication between the parent and the child care provider is key for a successful relationship. If you have a concern about the care of your child, you should:

- Talk with the provider or director.
- Respectfully tell them about your concerns and discuss the issue together. A separate meeting may be needed.
- Ask what you can do to help address concerns.
- Ask what ideas they might have for the situation.
- If you've tried to address your concerns and nothing has changed, call your local Child Care Licensing office. Contact information can be found on the back of this brochure.

Your comments and experiences are important. While Child Care Services may not be able to address all of your concerns, trained ECE Specialists can offer ideas and suggestions for handling the situation.