Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: YMCA School Age Care at Cedar Heights Elem **Enrollment:** 45 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46270

Street: 2417 Rainbow Dr **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50613 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 669 S Hackett Rd, Waterloo, IA, 50701

Director's Name: Brandon Bennett & Bekah Stevens **Phone Number:** 319-553-2855

On-Site Supervisor(s): Hannah Mead **E-Mail:** awalker@blackhawkymca.org bstevens@blackhawkymca.org widner@blackhawkymca.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-09-2022

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** X **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received **Yes** **No** X **NA** **Date Signed:**

FIRE INSPECTION **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 12-04-2019

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	0	50	50
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2021 to 12-01-2023
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 11-15-2022

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 11/09/22 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to YMCA School Age Care at Cedar Heights Elementary in Cedar Falls. I met with Hannah Mead, the on-site supervisor for the program. Ms. Mead is in college working toward a high school math education degree. She started with the program in the fall of 2020. Brandon Bennett and Bekah Stevens are the co-directors. Mr. Bennett is the Director of Youth Development, SAC. Ms. Stevens is the director of the ELC program. Mr. Bennett started with the YMCA on 10/05/22. He has previous experience in childcare, including as an assistant director, in Minnesota. He has not finished his education yet but has completed four years of classes in early childhood studies and secondary education. Mr. Bennett is primarily in charge of the school age programs and Ms. Stevens primarily oversees the early learning center. Ms. Stevens has been employed with the YMCA since September 2020. She has a BA in Social Work and Spanish. Their offices are in the YMCA facility in Waterloo. There are two staff members present with the children in the morning and two staff members for the afternoon session.

The program is in Cedar Heights Elementary. They primarily operate out of the cafeteria area, but also utilize the school gym on occasion and the playground. The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-8:45 am and 3:45-6:00 pm. Every Wednesday the children get out of school at 1:50 pm. The program serves children who are in kindergarten through sixth grade. There are currently 45 children enrolled.

The cafeteria and gym are open spaces that allow for free play and organized activities. Natural lighting is available in the cafeteria and artificial lighting is used in the gym. The centers observed include art, library, blocks/Legos, games, magnets, Play-Doh, table toys, and puzzles. Centers are stored in a closet located in the cafeteria.

I visited the program during the afternoon session. The program was in ratio. The number of children at the program at any one time is changing constantly because of children arriving and leaving.

The children primarily use two bathrooms located outside the cafeteria. The girl's bathroom has three toilets and two sinks. The boy's bathroom has one toilet, two urinals and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. There are additional bathrooms in the school. Staff members maintained supervision of the children when the bathrooms were used.

Staff members have a program cell phone. Emergency numbers were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by most of the main program doors and outdoor exits in the cafeteria and gym. A diagram needs to be posted near the entrance the parents use in the cafeteria and near the outdoor exit in the gym. A daily schedule was posted.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. There was no documentation on site for the 2021-2022. This needs to be available to review.

Radon testing, a fuel burning inspection and a carbon monoxide detector are not necessary because the program is exempt from environmental assessments as a before and after school program that serves only school-aged children and located in a

public-school building. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 12/04/19. Please be aware that fire marshal inspections are good for three years, so you are due for a new one in December.

The program uses R-T-U Quaternary FCS Sanitizer to sanitize the food tables. This is provided by the school.

An afternoon snack is provided by the YMCA. A snack menu was posted. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not necessary. The program is not part of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but is following the guidelines. The program does not have a refrigerator. Snacks were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines. The program does not serve breakfast, but a table is cleaned and sanitized so children could eat breakfast if they brought it. Breakfast is served by the school once the children are released from the program.

The program uses the elementary school's playground. The area is partially fenced in. Woodchips are used for surface cushioning under the climbing equipment. There are climbing walls, rings, bars, and a balance beam. Rubber tiles are used under the swings. There are also grassy areas and a basketball court with hoops. There is a baseball field where the children can play kickball. There is a GaGa Ball area. Shade is available from trees.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the cafeteria. The mandatory reporter information was posted. You must post the childcare consultant and the handbook availability information and the license. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. They offered the children choices and had great teamwork. Positive redirection was used when necessary. Staff members were enthusiastic, friendly and provided praise to the children. They sat with the children to play games and maintained positive conversation. The children seemed to enjoy themselves and feel comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Mead states they have a great group of children. "They are amazing." She states they are so much fun.

Ms. Mead states they receive terrific support from YMCA administration. When she has an idea, they tell her to "go for it".

Ms. Mead states YMCA administration is supportive of decisions when they are dealing with children who have difficult behaviors. They try to set up behavior plans, conferences with the parents and research techniques to work with the children.

Ms. Mead comes up with creative ideas to entertain the children. She has had them make blanket forts and go on scavenger hunts.

The program is here for the community no matter what. They are here to serve the communities with any childcare needs they may have.

The program meets a need in the community to provide care for children before and after school. They are safe on the school site and do not have to transition to a new location.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

109.4(3)b: Postings are required for:Mandatory reporter requirements.Notice of availability of handbook.Program activities.These shall be posted in area frequented by parents or public.
You must post the childcare consultant and the handbook availability information and the license.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to name Brandon Bennett as a co-director and Hannah Mead as the new on-site supervisor.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.