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

Name of Center: After School Program **Enrollment:** 28 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51570

Street: 710 North ST **City:** Iowa Falls Iowa **Zip** 50126 **County:** Hardin

Mailing Address: 710 North ST, Iowa Falls, IA, 50126

Director's Name: Maria Ingram **Phone Number:** 641-648-6420

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** asp@ifacadets.net

Date(s) of Visit: 07-18-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 03-01-2021

Comments : Confirmation was received from the Fire Marshal on 07-21-21 that the inspection report that was completed for the school would meet the requirement for occupancy by the licensed program.

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: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

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

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 07-24-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the After School Program in Iowa Falls on 07-18-24 where I met with Maria Ingram who is the program director. Maria took over the director role for the 2023 school year and is well qualified for the position based on her education, experience, and training but announced she will be leaving the program in August. The program is located in the Rock Run Elementary school building in Iowa Falls and has been in operation since 2021. The program is operated and overseen by the school district and provides after school programming during the school year from 3:20 pm to 6 PM each school day. Full day programming is offered from 8 am to 6 pm each weekday during the summer. The program is open to all children enrolled in the Iowa Falls school district that are of school age. There are currently 28 children enrolled in the program served by 7 staff. All aspects of the program were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout of the building and rooms remain the same as observed in the previous visit but the school is currently engaged in some renovations over the summer so the program is primarily making use of the school library. The program will return to making use of the school cafeteria once the renovations are complete. These spaces are arranged as would typically be expected with the cafeteria being a large open space with trestle tables that can be folded up or brought out for use as needed. The library has been arranged to have some larger open commons areas with tables and open space for the children. The cafeteria has exits that open onto the main corridor of the school, as well as exits that provide direct egress to the outdoors. The library also has multiple exits however these all open onto other interior areas and corridors. All exits were free of obstruction and opened easily. Windows along the exterior wall provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Restrooms are available just off the programming space so that children do not need to leave the area to use the restroom or wash hands. A phone is available in the room, and emergency numbers were posted. Due to the multiple use nature of the room the program is not able to establish traditional activity centers which remain throughout the day but has storage cabinets where books, games, crafts, blocks/Lego's, and other items are stored and brought out for the children to play with. The toys and materials were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children attending the program.

Good interactions were observed on the day of my visit with the teachers leading a large group outdoor activity when I arrived, and then the program left to go to the public pool. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum were posted. During the school year the program has a limited schedule and uses a very general curriculum plan of identifying a monthly theme. During the summer the program has a more defined schedule and curriculum based on a planned special daily activity. Ratio was maintained as required both at the center, and with additional staff being present when leaving to go to the pool. The staff did use positive behavior management approaches during the visit with recognizing positive behavior, using transition activities, reminders of expected behavior, and redirection.

Good health and safety practices were observed. Good hand washing practices were observed with the staff reminding the children to wash their hands after restroom use, and other times as needed. The school custodial staff provide the general routine cleaning, but the program also maintains some cleaning supplies to sanitize tables as needed. Personal items, chemical cleaners, and other items that could be a safety risk to children were stored in an area where they were not accessible to children. First aid kits are maintained in the classroom, and were taken out on to the playground, and when leaving to go to the pool. First aid kits did contain items necessary to address most common first aid needs but did need to

be replenished.

Due to the limited hours of operation during the school year meals are not served but snacks are provided. During the summer the program will participate in the School Summer Lunch Program when that is offered, and then children will bring a sack lunch from home when that program discontinues. The snacks that are provided generally consist of individual single serving items such canned fruit, yogurt, fresh fruits and vegetables, and some bulk packaged items. A list of the snacks that were served was maintained. The program does maintain a cabinet where shelf stable items can be stored, and a refrigerator for items that require cold holding temperatures. Good food storage practices were in place with thermometers present in refrigerators, and bulk items being placed in sealed containers.

The program does make use of the school playground which was also being fully renovated such that all climbing structures had been removed and access was closed. As a result the center has been using an area used for a practice football field.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area that was visible to parents and visitors. The center does use the school enrollment system to maintain child files and records. All files were current. All staff files were reviewed and found to contain all required documentation with the exception of 3 that had an expired Iowa SING background check. The program is making use of the school policy handbooks to ensure continuity with the school as much as possible, but has developed a handbook to include information and policies required by DHS licensing that is not present in the school handbooks. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current with the exception of Fire and Tornado drills which Maria stated were not being completed due to the construction and not wanting to set the alarms off. It was reviewed that these still need to be practiced and it is not necessary to set off the alarms.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The school is undertaking substantial renovations over the summer that include the areas typically used by the program including the cafeteria and the outdoor playground.

Maria identified that she will be leaving the program in August of this year and as a result has worked hard to update records, develope a guide, and otherwise prepare the program for her successor.

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

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
-- Number not in compliance: 3

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
-- Drills were not being conducted due to the renovation work and school request to not sound the alarms. Drill do need to be conducted but it is not necessary to sound the alarms for each monthly drill.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.