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

Name of Center: YMCA School Age Care at Becker Elem **Enrollment:** 31 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46523

Street: 1239 Sheldon St **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50701 **County:** Black Hawk

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

Director's Name: Brandon Bennett & Bekah Stevens **Phone Number:** 319-233-3531

On-Site Supervisor(s): Caroline Loveless **E-Mail:** bstevens@blackhawkymca.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-25-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 08-30-2021

Comments : Compliance on 09/17/21

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 X 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 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-30-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/25/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to YMCA School Age Care at Becker Elementary in Cedar Falls. Caroline Loveless is the on-site supervisor, but she was not present the day of my visit. Ms. Loveless has an AA in an unrelated field. She has been with the YMCA since September 2010. I met with Chase Swieter and Ellie Cooper, the staff members the day of my visit. 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 is typically two staff members present during the morning hours and two staff members present during the afternoon hours of operation.

The program is in Fred Becker Elementary. They operate out of the cafeteria. They also utilize the gym. The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-8:30 am and 3:30-6:00 pm. The program serves children who are in kindergarten through sixth grade. There are currently 31 children enrolled.

The cafeteria allows for free play at tables and the gym allows for gross motor activities. Windows provide natural lighting in the cafeteria and artificial lighting is used in the gym. The centers observed include arts and crafts, Legos, transportation, library, games and magnets. Centers are stored in a closet in the cafeteria.

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

The children primarily use two bathrooms located in the hallway near the cafeteria. The boy's bathroom has two toilets and three urinals. The girl's bathroom has five toilets. There are two birdbath sinks outside of the bathrooms that allow for multiple children to wash their hands at one time. Handwashing procedures were posted.

The program uses a cell phone. Emergency phone numbers with the program's address and phone number must be posted. This was cited in last year's report also. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams must be posted by both exits out of the cafeteria and near all three exits in the gym. This was cited in last three licensing reports and must be corrected immediately.

A daily schedule was not posted. Please post this in the parent board.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills for the 2023-2024 school year. The program did not have documentation from the 2022-2023 school year. You must keep these documents for two years and have them available for licensing visits so I know drills are practiced every month.

I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections for the 2023-2024 school year. The program did not have documentation from the 2022-2023 school year. You must keep these documents for two years and have them available for licensing visits so I know the playground is inspected every month.

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. However, the program is going to start caring for preschool children yet this school year. So, you are now required to do radon testing, get copies of the annual fuel burning inspection and have a carbon monoxide detector on site.

Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 08/30/21, with compliance on 09/17/21.

The YMCA offers an afternoon snack. A snack menu was posted, but it was old. You must post a current snack menu each week. 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. Snacks are provided by the YMCA/NE Iowa Food Bank Iowa CACFP At-Risk Program and 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 bring it. There is a refrigerator on site in the staff room and a thermometer was present. The children can eat breakfast at school once they are released from the program.

The program uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables. I observed the staff member prepare the table for snack. Soap and water were not used to clean the tables prior to the bleach. Tables must always be cleaned with soap and water prior to sanitizing the table. The staff member said he typically cleans the table with soap and water first but the bottle is broken.

A first aid kit is on site.

The program uses the elementary school's playground. The area is partially fenced in. Rubber tiles are used for surface cushioning. There is a variety of climbing equipment. There are climbing walls, slides, bars, rings, stepping stones and a see saw. There are also grassy areas and a basketball court with hoops. Trees are outside the fence for shade.

The parent information is located on a portable bulletin board. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously posted. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed six children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Five files did not have any medical or dental emergency contact information. One file did not have information with next of kin with emergency phone numbers. There were no health statements on site and no signed statement that immunization records are with the school for the school-age children.

When you begin caring for preschool children, those files are mandated to have current physicals from a medical personnel and immunization certificates on the mandated Department of Health and Human Services certificate.

I reviewed one staff file at the YMCA on 11/28/23. The staff member had an outdated Iowa background check (SING) in her file. She had fingerprints, but they were not from DCI, which is mandated, so they are not valid. She had outdated first-aid, CPR and universal precautions training. There was no documentation of any on-going training hours. The physical was outdated. They are only good for three years. A reminder, the physical must be on the mandated DHH form.

The staff member was observed to have good interaction with the children. It is a chaotic environment right after school because children who are not in the YMCA program are in the cafeteria waiting for buses. School staff are with these children. Staff members knew which children were under their care. They moved around the program space and were actively engaged in activities with the children. Staff members were attentive to the children. They provided praise and used positive redirection when necessary. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Mr. Swieter states the YWCA provides a great program. He also works for the summer care program at the YMCA and he is going to school to be a teacher. He states the children are awesome.

Mr. Swieter states children of all ages are friends in the program. It is nice for different aged children to know one another.

Mr. Swieter states the YMCA helps parents as well as cares for children.

Mr. Swieter states the children in the program get along well and they do not have any issues.

Ms. Loveless has been with the program since September 2011 which provides consistency to the children and families.

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.

The program has a consistent on-site supervisor Monday through Friday in the morning and the afternoon hours.

The program has a great administrative team to overlook the school sites.

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

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

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.
Number not in compliance: 1
The staff member did not have any documentation of on-going training hours. They must complete 12 hours of training this year to make up for this.

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1
The staff member had an outdated Iowa background check (SING) in her file. She had fingerprints, but they were not from DCI, which is mandated, so they are not valid.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1
The staff member had an outdated physical.

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
Number not in compliance: 1
She had outdated first-aid, CPR and universal precautions training.

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for medical: 5
Number not in compliance for dental: 5
Information lacking: Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Five files did not have any medical or dental emergency contact information.

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number missing: 6
There were no signed statement that immunization records are with the school for the school-age children.

109.10(1)b: School-age (for children five years and older and enrolled in school): Annual statement of health status signed by parent is submitted prior to admission, certifies that the child is free of communicable disease, and lists allergies, medications and acute/chronic conditions.
Number not in compliance: 6
There were no health statements on site.

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.

documents for two years and have them available for licensing visits so I know drills are practiced monthly. The program uses a cell phone. Emergency phone numbers with the program's address and phone number must be posted. This was cited in last year's report also. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams must be posted by both exits out of the cafeteria and near all three exits in the gym. This was cited in last three licensing reports and must be corrected immediately.

109.11(3). Outdoor play area includes safe play equipment and shade.
I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections for the 2023-2024 school year. The program did not have documentation from the 2022-2023 school year. You must keep these documents for two years and have them available for licensing visits so I know the playground is inspected every month.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served.Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum.Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
The program did not have daily scheduled posted.

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
The program did not have a current snack menu.

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 add preschool children as the group of children served by the program. You must do radon testing, get a copy of the annual fuel burning inspection from the school and add a carbon monoxide detector to the program space. You must also get physicals and immunization certificates for the preschool children.

I met with Brandon Bennett and Joseph Espinosa at the YMCA on 11/28/23. We discussed the concerns I had with my visit. Mr. Bennett and Mr. Espinosa informed me they are already making corrections to the sites following my email to them with my concerns. If the same violations occur next year the program will be placed on a provisional license.

*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.