



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
 DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
 LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
 GOVERNOR

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA  
 ACTING DIRECTOR

August 30, 2023

Jesse Trowbridge  
 Coldwater Community Schools  
 95 South Freemont Street  
 Coldwater, MI 49036

RE: License #: DC120313354  
 Investigation #: 2023D0216015  
 Kids Club Childcare Center

Dear Jesse Trowbridge:

I conducted a special investigation because the child care licensing division received information regarding your facility that related to licensing rules or law. The information was related to the following:

- R 400.8365(1) Heating; temperature.
- R 400.8365(3) Heating; temperature.

The details of the information are in the attached report. To investigate:

- I interviewed the interim program director, child care staff members, parents, and others with relevant information.
- I completed an on-site inspection on the following date: August 8, 2023.

As a result of this investigation, I recommend no change to the current license status. I did not find any violations. The special investigation report is attached.

During this special investigation:	Yes	No
A rule or law violation was found and a serious injury or death occurred.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A rule or law violation was found and abuse and/or neglect of a child occurred.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

This report and any related corrective action plans must be filed in your licensing notebook. This report and any related corrective action plans will be online for parents to review under the Statewide Search for Licensed Child Care Centers and Homes.

Sincerely,

*Carrie Harris*

Carrie Harris, Licensing Consultant  
Child Care Licensing Bureau  
611 W. Ottawa Street  
PO Box 30837  
Lansing, MI 48909  
(269) 615-5617

enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
BUREAU OF COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SYSTEMS  
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT**

**I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

<b>License #:</b>	DC120313354
<b>Investigation #:</b>	2023D0216015
<b>Complaint Receipt Date:</b>	08/07/2023
<b>Investigation Initiation Date:</b>	08/08/2023
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	10/06/2023
<b>Licensee Name:</b>	Coldwater Community Schools
<b>Licensee Address:</b>	401 Sauk River Coldwater, MI 49036
<b>Licensee Telephone #:</b>	(517) 279-5910
<b>Administrator:</b>	Jesse Trowbridge, Designee
<b>Licensee Designee:</b>	Jesse Trowbridge, Designee
<b>Name of Facility:</b>	Kids Club Childcare Center
<b>Facility Address:</b>	70 Tibbits Coldwater, MI 49036
<b>Facility Telephone #:</b>	(517) 279-5975
<b>Original Issuance Date:</b>	11/23/2011
<b>License Status:</b>	REGULAR
<b>Effective Date:</b>	12/31/2022
<b>Expiration Date:</b>	12/30/2024
<b>Capacity:</b>	95
<b>Program Type:</b>	CHILD CARE CENTER

## II. ALLEGATION(S)

	<b>Violation Established?</b>
The building is not equipped with working air conditioning units, and it feels like the rooms are about 90 degrees Fahrenheit.	No

## III. METHODOLOGY

08/07/2023	Special Investigation Intake 2023D0216015
08/08/2023	Special Investigation Initiated - On Site from 9:05 AM to 10:25 AM Spoke to Interim Program Director, Jesse Trowbridge, Child Care Staff Member 1, Child Care Staff Member 2, Child Care Staff Member 3, and Child Care Staff Member 4
08/09/2023	Contact - Telephone call made Spoke to Business Manager, Rachele Roby, Child A, Child B, Child C & Child D's Mother, and Child E & Child F's Mother
08/22/2023	Contact – Document received Email message from Interim Program Director, Jesse Trowbridge
08/30/2023	Exit Conference Spoke to Interim Program Director, Jesse Trowbridge

**ALLEGATION:** The building is not equipped with working air conditioning units, and it feels like the rooms are about 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

**INVESTIGATION:** On August 8, 2023, I made an unscheduled inspection to the child care center and spoke to Interim Program Director, Jesse Trowbridge, Child Care Staff Member 1, Child Care Staff Member 2, Child Care Staff Member 3, and Child Care Staff Member 4 about the allegation. Jesse Trowbridge stated that the center is equipped with central air conditioning, but the unit broke on July 31, 2023, and the district maintenance director told her that a part had been ordered to repair the unit, but he did not yet have a timeline on the repair. The center has one portable air conditioning unit in Room 211 for the younger children and fans in the other classrooms, but she acknowledged that it has “gotten hot” in the building on multiple occasions since the air conditioning broke last week and they are managing as best as they can until it is repaired. The main thermostat, located in the

gymnasium, has indicated a temperature as high as 86 degrees Fahrenheit, but she denied ever seeing it reach 90 degrees Fahrenheit. On the day it reached 86 degrees Fahrenheit inside the facility, she said it was cooler outside, so they took children outdoors for a while and then to rooms where there were two fans blowing to circulate the air and another classroom that has a portable air conditioning unit. Jesse Trowbridge stated that they have tried to open the windows to get more air, but they do not open very far. They have turned the lights off in the classrooms and the hallways, given the children water bottles and cups of cool water with ice, and set up sprinklers for water days since the air conditioning has been broken as ways to keep the children cool. Jesse Trowbridge said some parents have commented to her that it is hot in the building, but she has not received any other complaints about the temperature in the child use areas.

I asked Jesse Trowbridge to give me a tour of the facility so I could see the child use spaces. She took me to Room 211 that is used for the preschool children. There was a portable air conditioning unit running in the classroom, the blinds were drawn to keep out the sunlight, and the lights were off. I took out my thermometer and recorded the temperature in the room as 72.7 degrees Fahrenheit at 9:30 AM. The next room we visited was the cafeteria. The blinds were drawn, the lights were off, and one fan was running at the back of the room. The cafeteria temperature measured at 74.7 degrees Fahrenheit at 9:32 AM. Next, we went into Room 203 that is used by the school-age children. There was one large box-fan turned on high and located in the corner of the classroom. Jesse Trowbridge said there are usually two fans in the room, but a child care staff member must have moved one to a different location in the building. The blinds were drawn in the room and the lights were off. The temperature in the school-age classroom was 75.1 degrees Fahrenheit at 9:35 AM.

Jesse Trowbridge said the gymnasium is usually the warmest room in the center. We went in there and I observed two fans running at different ends of the room, the blinds were drawn, and the lights were off. The thermostat in the gymnasium indicated a temperature of 74 degrees Fahrenheit. The last classroom Jesse Trowbridge showed me was the art room but said it was not currently being used because of the concerns with the room temperatures. The blinds were drawn, and the lights were off. The temperature of the room was 73.7 degrees Fahrenheit at 9:40 AM. I asked Jesse Trowbridge why they were using a portable air conditioning unit in the office when it could be used for cooling the school-age children in care. She took me into the office and showed me how the unit was attached to a large piece of plexiglass that was anchored to the window allowing the unit to vent out the window. She said she had discussed the possibility of moving the unit to the school-age room, but maintenance said it would require a lot of work and they expected that the air conditioning in the building would be fixed very soon. We discussed some other measures that could be taken to keep children cool such as encouraging parents to send in meals and snacks that could be refrigerated and did not require heating in the microwave, the use of sponges in zip lock baggies to cool children off, and popsicles as special treats.

Child Care Staff Member 1 (CCSM 1) acknowledged that the air conditioning in the facility has been broken for about a week but said she heard the part had been ordered to get it fixed. CCSM 1 said the child care staff members have taken the children outdoors when the air temperature and shaded areas have been cooler than inside the building. When they are indoors, they keep the air circulating using a portable air conditioner and fans. They move the children to the coolest rooms and encourage them to drink ice water. CCSM 1 said they have kept the lights off and blinds drawn in the rooms and will encourage more quiet activities. She said they have had movie days indoors to keep the children calm and quiet. They have also had “water days” outside to help the children keep cool.

Child Care Staff Member 2 (CCSM 2) said the air conditioning has been broken for about two weeks. CCSM 2 said she was told it was supposed to be fixed on August 6, 2023, but it is still not working. She said they have been trying to keep the children outside as much as possible because the inside temperature is warmer than the outside temperature. They monitor the interior temperature from a thermostat located in the gymnasium. CCSM 2 stated that they have been using fans to keep the classrooms cool, closing blinds, and putting ice in the children’s water bottles they bring from home. They have watched movies to keep the children calmer, so they are not running around. They have also had “water days” outside. Some parents have started providing “cold lunches” instead of sending in items that need to be heated up in the microwave for mealtimes.

Child Care Staff Member 3 (CCSM 3) stated that the only thermostat in the facility is in the gymnasium, which is also the warmest building in the center. She has seen the thermostat indicate a temperature of 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The preschool classroom has a portable air conditioning unit but air escapes around the hole where the venting connects to the plexiglass in the window, so they have to keep checking the tape on the window to be sure it is secured so they do not experience air loss. The school-age classroom uses fans to circulate air in the room. CCSM 3 stated that they keep the blinds in both rooms closed and make cool water available to the children to keep them comfortable. She said that they have done a “movie day” and had “water days” since the air conditioning has been out the past week. She was not sure when it was expected to be fixed.

Child Care Staff Member 4 (CCSM 4) said the air conditioning stopped working last week and they realized it was blowing hot air. They have tried opening the windows, but they do not open very far so they do not get good fresh air circulation in the classrooms. They have been using fans and a portable air conditioning unit to keep the children cool and comfortable. They have also been putting ice water in the children’s water bottles, keeping the blinds closed, and having “water days” where the children can run through sprinklers and play water games. The highest she has seen the temperature get in the gymnasium is 87 degrees Fahrenheit. The children will usually play outside in the mornings when it is cooler, and they have a

lot of shade. She was not sure when the air conditioning was scheduled to be fixed.

I observed that when I arrived at the center at 9:05 AM, the children were playing outdoors on the playground, and it was 66 degrees Fahrenheit outdoors. When I left at 10:25 AM, the outdoor temperature had risen to 73 degrees outside.

On August 9, 2023, I spoke to Business Manager, Rachelle Roby, Child A, Child B, Child C & Child D's Mother and Child E & Child F's Mother by telephone. Rachelle Roby explained that the school district is actively working to get the air conditioning the building fixed, but they were waiting on a part and then need to get someone to the facility to make the repair when it comes in. She was hoping it would be this week.

Child A, Child B, Child C & Child D's Mother acknowledged that the air conditioning in the building has been broken for about a week. She said they have placed a note on the front door to let families know they are trying to keep the center cool until the air conditioning unit can be repaired. She discussed how hot it is in the building with the child care staff members and they assured her that they are trying to get a repairman out to fix it. She was not sure what the center was doing to keep children cool. She has not had any concerns about the facility and her children love going there.

Child E & Child F's Mother stated that she was aware the air conditioning was not working in the facility for the past "couple days." She said it was her understanding that a part had been ordered for the repair. The child care staff members have been moving the children to cooler areas of the building to keep them comfortable. They have also given them popsicles, cool water, and provided opportunities for water play outdoors. Child E & Child F's Mother said it was warmer in the building than normal, but she did not feel it was too hot for the children.

On August 22, 2023, I received an email from Jesse Trowbridge to state that the air conditioning in the facility had been fixed.

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.8365</b>	<b>Heating; temperature.</b>
	<b>(1) The temperature in child use areas must be maintained at a safe and comfortable level so that children in care do not become overheated or chilled.</b>

<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	<p>The temperature in the child use areas is maintained at a safe and comfortable level so that children in care do not become overheated.</p> <p>The center was monitoring the temperature and taking measures to cool the children using a portable air conditioning unit, fans, closing blinds, opening windows, turning off lights, planning quiet activities, adding ice cubes to water, planning water days, and moving children to cooler spaces, as necessary, to keep them comfortable while the air conditioning unit in the center was being repaired.</p>
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED</b>

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.8365</b>	<b>Heating; temperature.</b>
	<b>(3) If temperatures exceed 82 degrees Fahrenheit, then a center shall take measures to cool the children.</b>
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	When the temperature exceeded 82 degrees Fahrenheit in the center, the child care staff members took measures to cool the children using a portable air conditioning unit, fans, closing blinds, opening windows, turning off lights, planning quiet activities, adding ice cubes to water, planning water days, and moving children to cooler spaces as necessary, to keep them comfortable while the air conditioning unit in the center was being repaired.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED</b>

**IV. RECOMMENDATION**

I recommend this special investigation be closed with no change in the status of the child care license.

*Carrie Harris*

August 30, 2023

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Carrie Harris  
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:

*Charnell Lennox* 09/05/2023

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Charnell Lennox  
Area Manager

Date