



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
LIFELONG EDUCATION, ADVANCEMENT, AND POTENTIAL  
LANSING

DR BEVERLY WALKER  
GRIFFEA  
DIRECTOR

8/16/2024

Stockbridge Community Schools  
305 W. Elizabeth St.,  
Stockbridge, MI, 49285

License Number: DC330269355  
Special Investigation Number: SI-00122913

Dear Stockbridge Community Schools,

I conducted a special investigation because the child care licensing division received a complaint against your facility that related to licensing rules or law. The allegations were related to the following:

Rule/Law Number	Rule Description
R 400.8122(2)(a)	Full time for programs operating less than 6 continuous hours.

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

- I interviewed: The licensee designee, program director, and child care staff members.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 05/14/2023

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.

<b>During this special investigation:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
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](#).

Please review this report for accuracy and contact your consultant, Timothy Swope at (517) 262-9838 or swopet@michigan.gov. In the event that Timothy Swope is not available and you need to speak to someone immediately, please contact the Child Care Licensing Bureau at 517-284-9730.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Swope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Timothy Swope, Licensing Consultant

Enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
LIFELONG EDUCATION, ADVANCEMENT, AND POTENTIAL  
CHILD CARE LICENSING**

**Report Type:** Special Investigation Report

**Date of Report:** 8/16/2024

<b>Special Investigation Number</b>	<b>Complaint/Incident Receipt Date</b>
SI-00122913	04/23/2024
<b>Investigation Initiation Date</b>	<b>Report Due Date</b>
5/14/2024	06/22/2024
<b>License Number</b>	<b>Licensee Name(s)</b>
DC330269355	Stockbridge Community Schools
<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Licensee Designee(s)</b>
Kids Club	Bradley Robert Edwards Dena M Sommer
<b>Program Type</b>	
Center	
<b>Capacity</b>	
96	
<b>Facility Address</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>
100 Price Avenue, Stockbridge, MI, 49285	305 W. Elizabeth St., Stockbridge, MI, 49285
<b>Facility Phone Number</b>	<b>Facility Email Address</b>
5178517735	sommerd@panthernet.net
<b>Original License Issuance Date</b>	<b>License Status:</b>
12/13/2004	Regular
<b>License Effective Date:</b>	<b>License Expiration Date:</b>
11/22/2023	11/21/2025

**ALLEGATION(S)****Violation Established?**

For the last three months, the center has been operating the preschool without a lead caregiver.		No
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**METHODOLOGY**

Date	Activity
5/14/2024	Special Investigation Case Created SI-00122913
5/14/2024	Special Investigation Initiated via On-site Unannounced onsite inspection to the center from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Interview with Ms. Dena Sommer, licensee designee and Program Director. Observation of the premises.
5/15/2024	Contact – Phone Call Made Child Care Staff Member 1 (CCSM 1).
5/15/2024	Contact – Phone Call Made Lead Caregiver 1 (LC1).
5/15/2024	Exit Conference Ms. Sommer, licensee designee.

**ALLEGATION: For the last three months, the center has been operating the preschool without a lead caregiver.**

**INVESTIGATION:**

On 5/7/23, I conducted an unannounced onsite inspection to the center and interviewed Ms. Dena Sommer, licensee designee and Program Director (PD). I informed them of the allegation. Both Ms. Sommer and PD acknowledged that the 3-year-old preschool room lacking a lead caregiver due to their lead caregiver having to resign abruptly on 2/22/24 due to family issues. Ms. Sommer said one of their child care staff members expressed interest in the position. This child care staff member had the hours of experience but lacked the educational requirements needed to qualify as a lead caregiver. Ms. Sommer said the child care staff member remained in the position until 4/12/24, when she resigned from the position due. Ms. Sommers and PD acknowledged when this occurs, the center would normally use a substitute staffing agency when child care staff members are absent from work, however due to the child care staff member resigning from the position they decided to temporarily fill the position with a child care staff member already hired in order to assure that the person had completed the required training requirements needed to be a child care staff member. She temporarily staffed CCSM 1 in the position in order to assure they had met all of the training requirements needed to be a child care staff member. Ms. Sommer said CCSM 1 has been working in the position since 4/12/24. Both Ms. Sommers and PD acknowledged an active job posting being available since 4/12/24 when the former child care staff member resigned from the position. Currently, Ms. Somers and PD have already filled the lead caregiver position for next year, as Child Care Staff Member 2 (CCSM 2) who is currently the lead caregiver for another preschool classroom has expressed interest

in that position. Ms. Sommers said they will be hiring another lead caregiver for the GSRP preschool room for the upcoming school year. I informed both Ms. Somers and PD of variance requests that are available through our department which allows the center to request a variance for either a lead caregiver or program director who do not meet either the education or experience required to be in the position.

On 5/7/23, during my unannounced onsite inspection, I observed the centers premises. The center is located inside Emma Smith Elementary School in Stockbridge, Michigan. Emma Smith Elementary school is an active school building serving children grades kindergarten through 2nd grade. The center uses six rooms as approved child care space that include classroom B-103, classroom B104, classroom B 105, classroom B 106, the cafeteria, and the extended learning center. The center offers a part-time 3-year-old preschool program, and fulltime, 4-year-old preschool program through the school year. They also provide before and after school child care for school-aged children. During the summer months from June through August, the center offers child care for the children. The 3-year-old preschool room is the classroom who has their lead caregiver resign resulting in another child care staff member being placed in the position until they found a replacement. Ms. Somers is following R 400.8122(8) which allows for the appointment of a substitute lead caregiver and has 90 days to meet the requirements of a lead caregiver.

On 5/15/24, I separately interviewed CCSM 1 and LC 1 via telephone.

CCSM 1 has worked at the center for two years but has worked in child care for over 12 years. CCSM 1 enjoys her job and working with the children. I informed CCSM 1 of the allegation. CCSM 1 acknowledged Ms. Somers statement regarding the 3-year-old classroom's lead caregiver resigning from her position in February of 2024. Another child care staff member expressed interest in the position and worked in the position until 4/12/24 when she resigned from employment. At that time, CCSM 1 was placed in the position to complete the remainder of the school year. CCSM 1 said when the 2025 school year resumes, LC 1 will be the lead caregiver in the classroom and CCSM 1 will co-teach with her.

LC 1 has worked at the center for three years and is currently the lead caregiver for the 4-year-old preschool classroom. LC 1 enjoys her job and has worked in early childhood for over 20 years. I informed LC 1 of the allegation. LC 1 acknowledged Ms. Somers statement regarding the 3-year-old and said when former child care staff member abruptly resigned from employment on 4/12/24, she informed Ms. Sommer that she would work as the lead caregiver for the 3-year-old classroom in the upcoming 2024/2025 school year. CCSM 1 is working in the position for the remainder of the school year. LC 1 said the school is actively hiring for a new GSRP preschool teacher for the upcoming 2024/2025 school year.

