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**ELGEYO/MARAKWET COUNTY
GAZETTE SUPPLEMENT**

ACTS, 2016

NAIROBI, 18th November, 2016

CONTENT

Act—

PAGE

The Elgeyo/Marakwet County Early Childhood Development Education Act, 2016 ...1

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**THE ELGEYO/MARAKWET COUNTY EARLY
CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION ACT,
2016**

No. 7 of 2016

Date of Assent: 13th July, 2016

Date of Commencement: See Section 1

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

PART I— PRELIMINARY

- 1— Citation.
- 2— Interpretation.
- 3— Application.
- 4— Guiding Principles.

**PART II— RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO PRE-PRIMARY
AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION**

- 5— Responsibilities of the County Government.
- 6— Duties of parents and guardians.
- 7— Quality Assurance and standards.
- 8— Annual and other reports.

**PART III— REGISTRATION OF SCHOOLS, CENTRES AND
INSTITUTIONS**

- 9— School, centre or institution to be registered.
- 10— Application for registration.
- 11— Applicant to pay prescribed fee.
- 12— Publication of the application.
- 13— Registration of a school, centre or institution.
- 14— Permit to operate prior to registration.
- 15— Registration certificate.
- 16— Registration certificate to be displayed.
- 17— Register of schools etc. to be kept.

No. 7 *Elgeyo/Marakwet County Early Childhood Development Education* **2016**

**PART IV — MANAGEMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION CENTRES**

- 18— Head of Division of pre-primary education.
- 19— Other officers and staff of the Division.
- 20— Establishment of management boards.
- 21— Composition of the board.
- 22— functions of the board.
- 23— Annual report on Governance of early childhood centres.

PART IV — MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- 24— Administrative and technical costs.
- 25— Public Complaint Resolution.
- 26— Publication of matters of concern to the community.
- 27— Regulations.

2016 *Elgeyo/Marakwet County Early Childhood Development Education* **No. 7**

**THE ELGEYO/MARAKWET COUNTY EARLY
CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION ACT,
2016**

AN ACT of the Elgeyo/Marakwet County to give effect to paragraph 9 of part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, to provide for Pre-Primary and Early Childhood Education and for other connected purposes

ENACTED by the County Assembly of Elgeyo/Marakwet, as follows—

PART I — PRELIMINARY

1. This Act may be cited as the Elgeyo/Marakwet Early Childhood Development Education Act, 2016 and shall come into operation on the date of publication in the Gazette.

Citation and
commencement.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

Interpretation

“center” means any institution of early childhood development;

“child” means an individual who has not attained the age of eighteen years;

“community” means persons residing in the neighborhood of an early childhood education centre;

“curriculum” means the approved subjects taught or programs offered and includes all the activities provided at any centre;

“County Education Board” means the County Education Board established under the Basic Education Act, 2013;

“Department” means the Department of Education and Technical Training;

“Division” means the division of pre-primary education under the Department of Education and Technical Training established under this Act;

“early childhood” means the age between three and five years of a child;

“Executive committee member” means the executive committee member in charge of education and technical

No. 7 *Elgeyo/Marakwet County Early Childhood Development Education* **2016**

training;

“inspector” means inspector of schools appointed under the Kenya Basic Education Act No. 14 of 2013;

“pre-primary” has the same meaning as assigned in the Basic Education Act 2014.

3. This Act shall apply to all institutions of early childhood education under this Act. Application

4. The provision of early childhood education shall be guided by the following values and principles— Guiding principles

- (a) the right of every child to education;
- (b) equitable access for the child to education and equal access to education or institutions;
- (c) promotion of quality and relevance;
- (d) accountability within the institutions of early childhood education;
- (e) protection of every child against discrimination within or by an education department or education or institution on any ground whatsoever;
- (f) protection of the right of every child in a an ECDE centre to equal standards of education of the same education level;
- (g) encouraging independent and critical thinking; and cultivating skills, disciplines and capacities for reconstruction and development;
- (h) elimination of hate speech and tribalism through instructions that promote the proper appreciation of ethnic diversity and culture in society;
- (i) promotion of good governance, participation and inclusiveness of parents, communities, private sector and other stakeholders in the development and management of early childhood education;
- (j) transparency and cost effective use of educational resources and sustainable implementation of educational services;
- (k) elimination of gender discrimination, corporal punishment or any form of cruel and inhuman treatment or torture;

2016 *Elgeyo/Marakwet County Early Childhood Development Education* **No. 7**

- (l) promoting the protection of the right of the child to protection, participation, development and development;
- (m) promotion of innovativeness, inventiveness, and creativity;
- (n) non-discrimination, encouragement and protection of the marginalized, persons with disabilities and those with special needs;
- (o) provision of appropriate human resource, funds, equipment, infrastructure and related resources that meet the needs of every child in early childhood education.

**PART II— RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO
PRE-PRIMARY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION**

5. (1) The County Government shall promote the establishment of pre-primary and early childhood schools, centres and institutions in the county to ensure pre-primary education and development for all children before they proceed to the compulsory basic primary education.

Responsibilities of
the county
Government

(2) The governor shall organize the pre-primary and early childhood education system in the county and be responsible for the general progress, development and co-ordination of the system and its activities in accordance with the Basic Education Act, No.14 of 2013.

6. (1) It shall be the responsibility of every parent or guardian to present for admission or cause to be admitted his or her child, as the case may be, to a basic education institution.

Duties of parents and
guardians
Sec. 31 No.14 of
2013

(2) A person who contravenes this section shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both.

7. The county executive committee member responsible for education shall, in consultation with the County Education Board established under the Basic Education Act—

Quality Assurance
and standards

- (a) provide the curriculum, guidelines on minimum standards for school buildings, equipment and other relevant facilities for pre- primary and

No. 7 *Elgeyo/Marakwet County Early Childhood Development Education* **2016**

early childhood schools, centres and institutions;

- (b) ensure that the care givers who teach in the schools, centres and institutions have the necessary qualifications; and
- (c) ensure that all pre-primary and early childhood schools, centres and institutions are licensed, registered and regularly inspected by government education inspectors.

The Directorate may have such consultants or experts as may be necessary for the discharge of its functions.

8. (1) The Department shall prepare and submit periodical and annual reports to the Governor and the County Education Board including the number of schools, centers or institutions established and registered in that year and the general status of the pre-primary and early childhood education system in the county.

Annual and other reports

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the Governor or County Education Board may at any time, require a report from the Department on any particular matter under the responsibility of the Department.

(3) A report submitted under subsection (1) or (2) shall be tabled in the County Assembly.

**PART III— REGISTRATION OF SCHOOLS,
CENTRES AND INSTITUTIONS**

9. (1) A person shall not operate a pre-primary or early childhood school, centre or institution unless it is registered under this Act.

School, centre or institution to be registered.

(2) A person shall not use any premises or facility to provide pre-primary or early childhood education unless the premises or facility of the school, centre or institution has undergone a quality review and approved in accordance with the guidelines and standards issued under section 4 of this Act.

(3) Any person who operates a pre-primary or early childhood school, centre or institution which is not registered under this Act commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two hundred thousand Shilling or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or both.

10. (1) An application for registration of a school, centre of institution under this Act shall be in a form

Application for registration

2016 *Elgeyo/Marakwet County Early Childhood Development Education* **No. 7**

prescribed by the executive committee member responsible for education.

(2) An application for registration of a school, centre of institution under this Act shall be submitted to the Department.

(3) Within seven working days after receipt of an application under subsection (1), the Department shall forward a copy of the application to the County Education Board.

(4) The County Education Board shall, within fifteen working days after receiving the application under subsection (3)—

- (a) visit and conduct an inspection of the proposed premises for the school, centre or institution; and
- (b) conduct an interview with the applicant to assess the suitability of the equipment and the persons proposed to be employed in the school, centre or institution.

(5) The County Education Board shall within a reasonable period after the inspection and interview forward its recommendation to the Department for the registration of the school, centre or institution or to take such other action as the Department may deem fit.

11. Any person making an application for registration of a pre-primary or early childhood school, centre or institution shall pay the prescribed fees to the Department.

Applicant to pay
prescribed fee

12. The Department shall, upon receipt and after forwarding the application for the registration of a pre-primary or early childhood school, centre or institution to the County Education Board, publish the application in the county Gazette and in at least one daily newspaper of national circulation.

Publication of the
application

13. (1) The department shall register a pre-primary or early childhood school, centre or institution if the department is satisfied, based upon the written report of the County Education Board, that—

Registration of a
school, centre or
institution.

- (a) the applicant is an adult and a fit and proper person to operate the school centre or institution;

No. 7 *Elgeyo/Marakwet County Early Childhood Development Education*

2016

- (b) the applicant has not been convicted of an offence under the Psychotropic and Dangerous drugs Act, or the Children's Act No.8 of 2001, or an offence involving fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude;
- (c) where the applicant is a company, firm or other organization, none of its directors or members, has been convicted of an offence mentioned in paragraph (b);
- (d) none of the persons to be employed by the applicant in the operation of the institution has been convicted of an offence mentioned in paragraph (b);
- (e) the applicant or a person to be employed by the applicant in the operation of the institution is not, by reason of any infirmity of mind or body or otherwise, incapable of operating or being employed in the institution.

(2) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Department under this section may, within thirty days of being notified of the decision, appeal against the decision to the Education Appeals Tribunal established under the Basic Education Act

14. (1) The Department may, upon recommendation by the County Education Board, issue to the applicant for registration of a school, centre or institution, a permit to operate pending the fulfilment of the conditions required by the Board for the determination of the application.

Permit to operate
prior to registration.

(2) A permit under subsection (1) shall cease to operate upon—

- (a) the delivery of a certificate of registration to the applicant; or
- (b) the expiry of Ninety days after receipt of the notice of refusal of registration.

(3) As a condition of the grant of a permit under this section, the Department may prescribe a period within which the applicant must fulfill the conditions required by the Board for the improvements of the operation or the premises of the school, centre or institution.

2016 *Elgeyo/Marakwet County Early Childhood Development Education* **No. 7**

(4) A permit issued under this section shall be in the form prescribed by the executive committee member responsible for education.

(5) The holder of a permit under this section shall allow an inspector to enter the premises of the school, centre or institution, at all reasonable hours, for the purpose of carrying out any inspection to ascertain whether or not the school, centre or institution is in compliance with the conditions of the permit.

15. (1) The Department shall, on registration of a pre-primary or early childhood school, centre or institution, issue a registration certificate to the applicant.

Registration
certificate

(2) A registration certificate shall be valid for a period of five years from the date of issue and may be renewed on application by the operator of the pre-primary or early childhood school, centre or institution, in accordance with this Act.

16. The registration certificate issued under section 15 shall be displayed, by the operator, in a conspicuous place on the premises of the pre-primary or early childhood school, centre or institution.

Registration
certificate to be
displayed

17. The Department shall keep a register of all pre-primary and early childhood schools, centres and institutions operating in the county and shall include in the register name of the schools, centres or institution and such other particulars as the executive committee member responsible for education may be prescribed.

Register of schools
to be Kept

**PART IV—MANAGEMENT OF EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTERS**

18. (1) The Division of Pre-primary and Early Childhood Education shall be headed by a public officer competitively appointed by the County Public Service Board.

Head of Division of
pre-primary
education.

(2) A person is qualified for appointment as head of Division of Pre-primary and Early Childhood Education if that person—

- (a) is a citizen of Kenya;
- (b) holds a degree in education from a recognized university;

No. 7 *Elgeyo/Marakwet County Early Childhood Development Education* **2016**

- (c) has knowledge and relevant experience of at least five years in primary or pre-primary education; and
- (d) meets the requirements of leadership and integrity set out in chapter six of the Constitution.

(3) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as the head of Division of Pre-primary and Early Childhood Education under subsection (2) if that person—

- (a) is a member of Parliament or the County Assembly;
- (b) is declared to be of unsound mind;
- (c) is an un-discharged bankrupt; or
- (d) has been removed from office for contravening the provisions of the Constitution or any other written law.

19. (1) The County Public Service Board may appoint other officers, technical staff and other employees as may be necessary for the proper discharge of the functions of the Division under this Act, and upon such terms and conditions of service as the County Public Service Board may determine.

Other officers and staff of the Division.

(2) The Division may have such consultants or experts as may be necessary for the discharge of its functions.

20. There is established in every public education centre, a Management Board.

Establishment of management boards

21. (1) The Board shall consist of—

Composition of the board

- (a) one person elected from amongst the parents from each level within the school to represent parents of children in the education centre;
- (b) one representative of the teaching staff in the education centre nominated by the teachers;
- (c) one person with knowledge and experience in matters relating to early childhood development education within the county appointed by the executive committee member;
- (d) one person with knowledge and experience in matters related to children with special needs nominated by the County Governor in

2016 *Elgeyo/Marakwet County Early Childhood Development Education* **No. 7**

consultation with the County Education Board;

- (e) two providers of early childhood development and education nominated by the County Governor in consultation with the County Education Board; and
- (f) one public officer nominated by the county executive committee member within the county.
- (g) where the institution of basic education is hosted by another institution, the head teacher of the hosting institution

(2) The board of management may co-opt such persons not exceeding two in number to sit in the committee, whose knowledge and skills are found necessary for the performance of the functions of the board

22. (1) The functions of the Board shall be to—

functions of the
board

- (a) identify the needs of early childhood education and development services within their local communities and development viable strategies for meeting;
- (b) mobilize the parents and local communities to initiate and sustain education centres and support early education programmes;
- (c) manage the early education programme in the centre in ensuring the provision of quality early childhood education;
- (d) recruit the support staff within the education centre;
- (e) identifying the local resources to equip to the education centre and identify sources for, and undertake fundraising activities to raise funds for the education centre;
- (f) ensure the provision of quality early education services in the centre;
- (g) ensure that the facilities within the education centre are well maintained;
- (h) carry out advocacy in relation to the needs and the rights of child in relation to early childhood education; and

No. 7 *Elgeyo/Marakwet County Early Childhood Development Education* **2016**

- (i) take such other functions as may be necessary for the implementation this Act within the education centre.

(2) The committee shall open and operate its own bank account

(3) The board of management of an institution of basic education may establish such committees as the Board may consider appropriate to perform such functions and discharge such responsibilities, as the Board may deem necessary.

23. Every public early childhood education centre shall submit an annual report to the Executive Committee Member responsible for education and technical training

Annual report on
Governance of early
childhood centres

PART IV — MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

24. The annual estimates of the Directorate of Education and Technical Training in the county government shall, in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, make provision for the administrative and technical costs of the Department.

Administrative and
technical costs. No.
18 of 2012

25. (1) A person may make a complaint in writing to the Department if that person has reason to believe that—

Public Complaint
Resolution.

- (a) a pre-primary or early childhood school, centre or institution is operating illegally or is contravening any provision of this Act; or
- (b) a child at any pre-primary or early childhood school, centre or institution has been abused or has suffered injury or harm as a result of the act or negligence of the operator, a person acting as an agent, or any person employed in the school, centre or institution.

(2) Upon receiving a complaint under subsection (1), the Department shall refer the complaint to a police inspector in the area of the school, centre or institution and notify the County Education Board of the complaint.

(3) The police inspector shall, subject to subsection (4), make such inquiries as may be appropriate and may conduct discussions with the complaining party, the operator of the school, centre or institution and any employee involved in the complaint.

2016 *Elgeyo/Marakwet County Early Childhood Development Education* **No. 7**

(4) The police inspector shall submit to the department a report containing the following information—

- (a) the grounds of the complaint, noting any facts in dispute between the relevant parties;
- (b) whether, in the opinion of the police inspector, the matter can be remedied;
- (c) if the police inspector is of the opinion that the matter can be remedied, the measures recommended by the inspector to effect the remedy; and
- (d) the time period that the police inspector considers to be reasonably sufficient to effect the remedy.

(5) Upon receiving a report under subsection (4), the Department shall constitute a committee to consider the report and shall—

- (a) give notice in writing to the operator, the complaining party and any other party referred to in the report, of the constitution of a committee to consider the report;
- (b) specify the date, being not less than seven days from the date on which the parties receive the notice, when the parties may attend before the committee to make representations on the complaint.

(6) Any person who attends before the committee under subsection (5) shall be entitled legal representation.

(7) After consideration of the report, the committee shall submit its recommendation to the head of the Department who, taking the recommendation into consideration, may—

- (a) dismiss the complaint; or
- (b) direct the implementation of the recommendations in the report, subject to such variations as he or she may deem appropriate;
- (c) inform the County Education Board of the decision made.

(8) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Head of Department under this section may, within thirty days of

No. 7 *Elgeyo/Marakwet County Early Childhood Development Education* **2016**

being notified of the decision, appeal against the decision to the Education Appeals Tribunal established under the Basic Education Act.

(9) This section is without prejudice to any other proceedings that may be lawfully instituted against the operator, employee or other relevant party.

26. The Department shall cause any matter of concern to the community in the county relating to pre-primary and early childhood schools, centres and institutions to be published—

Publication of matters of concern to the community.

- (a) by fixing a copy of the document comprising the matter in a conspicuous place on or near the outer door of its offices;
- (b) by including the document comprising the matter as a supplement to an official local publication, if any; or in any other manner as is customary published in the area.

27. (1) The executive committee member responsible for Education and Technical Training shall, in consultation with the County Education Board make regulations generally for the better carrying out of the purposes and provisions of this Act,

Regulations.

(2) The executive committee member responsible for education shall cause a draft of the Regulations proposed to be made under subsection (1) to be laid before the Assembly for approval before publication in the county and Kenya gazette.