

Principals have to sit an exam to show they can run before-and-after school care programs

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PRINCIPALS will have to prove they are "fit and proper" people to run before-and-after school care programs under changes they describe as pointless red tape.

School leaders will have to have a new police check, sit an open-book exam on how to keep children safe and have a face-to-face interview with an Education Department official to be registered to run the programs.

Principals say the process is a waste of their time because they have have been running the programs for years without problems. They claim the running of the programs is already time consuming and the new demands for paperwork are outrageous.

Victorian Principals Association president Gabrielle Leigh said principals should be concentrating on getting students the best possible education, not filling out forms.

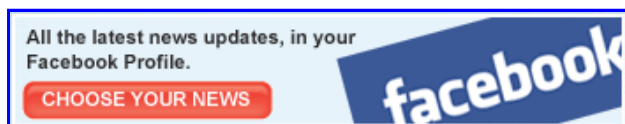
"It's unbelievable principals have to sit an exam to show they can run these programs," Ms Leigh said. "Principals run these programs out of goodwill because they know how important they are to working parents, but these regulations just make their job harder."

The new rules, part of the Children's Services Regulations 2009, are designed to assure parents that before and after school care meets minimum standards.

Under the rules, staff must have a qualification or be training for one and principals have to apply to run them. Community Child Care Association chief Barbara Romeril said the changes were necessary and denied the paperwork was onerous.

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