

DCY Update

OCLQS Step Up To Quality 2024 Release Notes

Background

Within the past year, The Ohio State Legislature proposed and passed an initiative to redesign the Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) program. The Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS) houses the SUTQ program and was enhanced to meet the new rule requirements. The details of what was specifically changed in the OCLQS system is below.

1. OCLQS Provider Portal Enhancements

- The OCLQS Provider Portal has been enhanced to reflect new policy changes for the Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) rating and improvement system.
- Within the OCLQS Provider Portal, inside the Step Up To Quality program card, the tiles that allow programs to register for an Initial, Ongoing, Expedited, or Change of Owner registration have been reactivated so that eligible programs may begin the completion and submission of these registrations.
- The SUTQ registration Q&A has been updated for all registration types and will reflect new rating verbiage and standards. Corresponding documents are no longer required for initial, ongoing, and change of owner registrations however, for expedited registrations, there will be a single document requirement.
- When a provider starts their registration and selects their desired rating from the dropdown, the system will no longer display 1,2,3,4,5 instead, the new ratings (Bronze, Silver, Gold) will display in the dropdown.
- In the provider portal, on the review and submit page of the registration, the provider will see updated rating verbiage and branding. The word ""star"" along with the ""star"" ratings will no longer display, but the new ratings Bronze, Silver, Gold will display instead.
- When the provider submits their registration in the portal, they will see an updated SUTQ submission message.
- The system has been enhanced so that during the SUTQ registration submission, the desk review process and the inspection visit completion reflect the rating level the program has requested and then granted. There are no longer any forms that need to be assessed during the desk review step except for those required for specialized rating registrations.
- All SUTQ email messages are now showing in the message section on the program detail page.
- All SUTQ reminder emails have been enhanced to replace the five-star rating system to the new rating level (Bronze, Silver, Gold) awarding system.

2. System Updates

- The system ran a conversion process that updated the current star rating for open or inactive programs that still had a rating on June 30, 2024, to be a new rating (Bronze, Silver, or Gold) level. See conversions listed below: Current 1- and 2-star ratings converted to Bronze (Rating 1). Current 3-star rating converted to Silver (Rating 2). Current 4- and 5-star ratings converted to Gold (Rating 3). The system did not change a program with a 0 rating. Those remain 0 rated. The system converted any programs with specialized ratings to the same parameters listed above. New rate records were created to reflect all converted rating levels with a July 7, 2024 effective date. These rate records will be sent to the Time Attendance and Payment (TAP) system. OCLQS will continue to send nightly files with rate and other demographic data to additional systems such as Ohio Benefits (OB) and the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR).
- The Search for Early Care and Education Programs website was enhanced to display the new rating award levels (Bronze, Silver, or Gold). Users may search for programs that have obtained a specific award level using the "Step Up To Quality Rating" field and selecting from the options (Any, Bronze, Silver, Gold, or None) in the dropdown menu.

3. Visual and Branding Changes

- As a result of processing either desk reviews or onsite visits, reports and documents in PDF format sent to programs via email or shown on the OCLQS portal have been enhanced with new logos and verbiage to align with the SUTQ rule changes. Formatting issues and page breaks within Initial and Ongoing SUTQ Registration reports have been enhanced to keep line items together from one page to another.
- The Bold Beginning image (children and stars) has been removed, and the DCY department name will display.
- The Bold Beginning logo was updated to the DCY logo. On the SUTQ card in the portal, if the program is not rated, the SUTQ logo (dancing star person) was replaced with the new SUTQ logo or if the program is already rated, it is updated to the SUTQ award logo specific to that program (Bronze, Silver, Gold). Additionally, on the FAQs, the 'Submit SUTQ Annual Reports' item was removed under the question "What Activities will I complete using the OCLQS portal?".
- The SUTQ logo (dancing star person) was replaced with the new SUTQ logo that is specific to the awarded rating level. Congratulations on Your # - Star Award! was replaced with, "Congratulations on Your Bronze (or Silver or Gold. Whichever applies.) Rating!"
- The SUTQ certificate was enhanced to remove the word 'star' from the Rating Begin Date and Rating Expiration Date lines and the paragraph verbiage contains a few edits. The Issue Date field was removed from the left-hand bottom. The DCY logo replaced the ODE and ODFJS logo on the bottom.

- Screen header changes have been implemented to reflect the new Ohio Department of Children and Youth logo. Web links housed at the bottom of the search pages have been re-mapped to navigate users to sites within DCY.

4. SUTQ Desk Review and Onsite Enhancements

- All SUTQ standard findings have been reviewed and updated to align with the 2024 SUTQ rule changes. The licensing team has uploaded these new findings into OCLQS for all SUTQ desk reviews and inspections to ensure that compliance information is identified during the inspection process and response to CAPs will be timely.
- The OCLQS system has updated the onsite calculation process to ensure that programs receive the appropriate award rating level when approvals result in rating assessment completed status.
- On the Desk Review program transaction, the numbers were replaced by names: Bronze, Silver, Gold. References to the words 'number' and 'points' were removed. The 'Points' sections were removed. The portal registration answers were added to the Answers section.
- On the SUTQ Desk Review Summary Report the Bold Beginning logo was replaced with the DCY logo. Any references to the word 'Star' were removed. The 4/5 Points column was removed. The numbers were converted to Bronze, Silver, Gold, whichever applies. The Domain name "Additional Ratio & Accreditation Points" line was removed. In the Registration Summary section under Desk Review Completed By, a new line Desk Review Date was added. Also, on the SUTQ Email - On Site Unable to Rate email, the Appendix was added as an attachment.
- When completing a SUTQ Focused Inspection and an error message displays when a required field is blank, the system will identify only the field that needs correction and not fields that have already been completed.
- A new error message was created to display if the activity/visit is not in ""completed"" status prior to submitting inspections for approval. On SUTQ inspection reports, the deferral section will display any deferral details found during the inspection.
- The system was enhanced to allow users to create licensing TA visits for Preschool and School programs as well as FCC A and FCC B programs. This functionality mirrors what is already in place for Center programs.
- OCLQS fields related to the ERC have been updated. Changes were made to the Staff Record Detail and Professional Development sections and will capture OA PD completed and required hours for the previous fiscal year. Several tabs of the ERC were also updated. The box for Counts for PD Requirements and points has been removed, as have Approach to Quality and Child Development trainings. Sections have also been added to track OA training for the previous fiscal year among other changes and updates.