

Step Up To Quality 2024 Rule Revisions

August 2, 2024



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Revision Goals
3. Implementation Timeline
4. Step Up To Quality System Changes
5. Program Standards Revisions
6. Training and Technical Assistance Plan



TODAY'S PRESENTERS

Policy Division

Kathy Muehlbauer, Policy Supervisor

Regulatory Compliance Division

Kristen Burgess, Bureau Chief
Quality Assurance

Michelle Vent, Bureau Chief
Early Care & Education Licensing

Training, Technical Assistance, and Practice Division

Janene Kehl, Bureau Chief
Professional Development

Sophie Hubbell, Bureau Chief
Early Childhood Practice Advancement

INTRODUCING THE REVISED SUTQ SYSTEM!

- Transitioning from a 5-Star to a 3-Level Rating System.
- Programs automatically had their rating converted to the new rating level.



Current Level	New Level
1	Bronze
2	
3	Silver
4	Gold
5	

} Highly Rated

IMPLEMENTATION



July 7, 2024: Revised Step Up To Quality rules became effective.

Currently Rated Programs: New standards assessed on or after July 1, 2025, providing a year to implement.

Programs Seeking Initial or Increased Rating: New standards are assessed at rating verification visit.

GOALS OF THE NEW MODEL

- 1. Implement quality standards** based on staff and stakeholder feedback and national best practices to **focus on what makes the greatest difference for children and families.**
- 2. Reduce administrative burden** to allow programs to focus on the benchmarks that result in **better child outcomes.**
- 3. Provide flexibility** to programs to best **meet the needs of their children and families.**

IMPLEMENT QUALITY STANDARDS FOCUSED ON OUTCOMES

1

Enhanced early learning by requiring all rated programs to implement a curriculum.

Created a new staff child interactions standard.

REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN

2

Reduced the number of benchmarks programs must meet to achieve a rating.

Eliminated required forms and unnecessary paperwork.

PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY

3

Provided sample forms for programs who choose to use them or allow programs to create own forms for documentation.

Eliminated the Professional Development certificate; offered training topic choices; made it easier to track hours.

Building Block Model



- Program meets all the Program Standards for a Bronze Level rating.



- Program meets all the Program Standards for a Bronze and a Silver Level rating.



- Program meets all the Program Standards for a Bronze, Silver and Gold Level rating.

The new model no longer includes points as an option to achieve a higher rating level.

PROGRAM STANDARDS OVERVIEW

PROGRAM STANDARDS

Learning and Development

Curriculum & Assessment

Child Screening

Administration & Leadership Practices

Child/Adult Interactions

Continuous Improvement

Staff Qualifications & Professional Development

Staff Education

Professional Development

Family & Community Partnerships

Family Partnerships/
Community Resources

Staff/Child Ratio – Only applies to Gold Level rating



Learning and Development

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Bronze Level

Curriculum and Assessment

Implement a comprehensive, research-based curriculum that is aligned with the Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) and the Science of Reading.

School age: Provide activities aligned with the Ohio K-12 Learning Standards.

Onsite Evidence Requirements

Selected curriculum is from verified list.
Curriculum materials are available for lead teachers/FCC Providers.
Required activity/lesson plans.
Current activity/lesson plans from the verified curriculum.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Silver Level

Curriculum and Assessment

Complete a comprehensive, formal child assessment aligned to the ELDS for all infant, toddler and preschool aged children twice annually.

Onsite Evidence Requirements

Assessment tool is from verified list.

Assessment is completed twice annually, and results are shared with families.

Evidence gathered to complete the assessment.

Lead Teachers/FCC Provider can explain the child assessment process, including methods used and how results are shared with families.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Gold Level

Curriculum and Assessment

Provide intentional and purposeful activities as determined from child assessments.

Utilize assessment results to adjust and refine instruction.

Onsite Evidence Requirements

Intentional and purposeful activities and experiences determined from the child assessment results.

Lead Teachers/FCC Provider can explain the child assessment process, including how results are used to plan, adjust or refine instructional strategies.

PROGRAM STANDARD CHANGES

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Implementation of comprehensive, aligned curriculum is included in all three rating levels.

Programs can choose from a list of approved assessments to meet the comprehensive assessment requirement.

Removed requirement to create two written developmental and educational goals within 60 days of enrollment.



Administration & Leadership Practices

ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

Bronze Level

Child/Adult Interactions

Child Care Centers/School Based Programs: Complete an annual self-assessment for each group of children.

Family Child Care: Complete an annual self-assessment using a tool that measures the learning environment for the program.

Onsite Evidence Requirements

Completion of an assessment for each age group of children.

Use of a developmentally appropriate tool for the age groups served.

Completed annually.

ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

Silver and Gold Levels

Child/Adult Interactions

Ohio Classroom Observation Tool (**OCOT**) standards are met through observation by DCY staff.

Child Care Centers/School Based Programs:

Self-assessments for each group of children are used to determine the area of focus and to set a goal for improvement.

Family Child Care: Environment assessment is used to determine the area of focus and to set a goal for improvement.

Onsite Evidence Requirements

Area of focus and a goal for improvement.

Include teacher's name, group, date completed, name of tool used, goal, action steps and timeframe.

Update annually.

PROGRAM STANDARD CHANGES

CHILD/ADULT INTERACTIONS

Self-assessments completed for all three levels.

Focused area of improvement, goals and action steps completed for Silver and Gold level ratings.

OCOT completed for Silver and Gold level ratings.

ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

Bronze Level

Continuous Improvement

Develop a Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) completed annually that includes:

- Two program goals.
- Two action steps.

Onsite Evidence Requirements

Continuous Improvement Plan.

ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

Silver Level

Continuous Improvement

Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) includes at least one additional goal and action step based on **input from staff and families.**

Onsite Evidence Requirements

Input gathered from staff and families annually.

ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

Gold Level

Continuous Improvement

Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) includes at least one additional goal and action step related to creating, maintaining or expanding ongoing **community partnerships**.

Onsite Evidence Requirements

At least one newly created/ongoing/expanding community partnership activity, function, or meeting annually.

PROGRAM STANDARD CHANGES

ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

Continuous Improvement Plan for all levels includes two goals and two action steps.

Removed program standards related to Staff Supports, including a written wage structure and staff supports provided.

Removed program standards related to Staff Management, including annual professional development plans and formal teacher observations.



Staff Qualifications and Professional Development



Staff Qualifications Child Care Centers/School Based Programs	Bronze Level	Silver Level	Gold Level
Onsite Administrator			
Meets licensing requirements	✓		
Has an AA, CPL 3, Administrator Credential 2, or SA Administrator Professional Endorsement (if only serving school-age children)		✓	✓
Lead Teachers			
50% have CDA or CPL 2 OR One lead teacher has minimum AA*, CPL 3 or SA Lead Teacher Professional Endorsement (if only serving school-age children)	✓		
25% have a minimum AA*, CPL 3 or SA Lead Teacher Professional Endorsement (if only serving school-age children)		✓	
50% have a minimum AA*, CPL 3 or SA Lead Teacher Professional Endorsement (if only serving school-age children)			✓

Staff Qualifications

Family Child Care Providers

	Bronze Level	Silver Level	Gold Level
Family Child Care Provider			
Has CDA, or CPL 1, or SA Administrator Professional Endorsement (if only serving school-age children)	✓		
Has CDA, AA, CPL 2, Administrator Credential 2, or SA Administrator Professional Endorsement (if only serving school-age children)		✓	✓
Family Child Care Lead Teacher (if not provider)			
Has CDA, CPL 1 or SA Lead Teacher Professional Endorsement (if only serving school-age children)	✓		
Has CDA, CPL 2 or SA Lead Teacher Professional Endorsement (if only serving school-age children)		✓	
Has an AA, CPL 2 or SA Lead Teacher Professional Endorsement (if only serving school-age children)			✓

*In an approved related field

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

All Levels

All Administrators, Lead Teachers, Assistant Teachers and FCC Providers obtain 10 hours of Ohio Approved training annually. Professional Development topics must include at least two of the following:

- Trauma
- Developmental Milestones
- Critical Conversations
- Behavior/Classroom Management
- Family Engagement
- Curriculum and Assessment
- Science of Reading
- Inclusion

Note: Approved college coursework related to the field may be used to meet the ongoing professional development requirement.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Silver Level

Administrators and FCC Provider Only

Must obtain 12 hours of Ohio Approved professional development annually.

Professional's choice of Ohio Approved training on the additional 2 hours.

Gold Level

Administrators and FCC Provider Only

Must obtain 15 hours of Ohio Approved professional development annually.

Professional's choice of Ohio Approved training on the additional 5 hours.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT VERIFICATION

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Professional completes PD Certificate **or** 10 hours of OA training.

Two topic areas not required to be completed.

Beginning July 1, 2025

Professional completes 10, 12, or 15 hours of OA training, based on role and rating level annually.

Training includes 2 of the required training topics.

PROGRAM STANDARD CHANGES

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Removed the Professional Development Certificate.

Changed from 20 hours/two years to 10 hours/one year of Ohio Approved professional development.

No longer required to complete Ohio's Overview of Child Development or Ohio's Approach to Quality courses.



Family & Community Partnerships

FAMILY & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Bronze Level

Family Partnerships/Community Resources

Utilize a tool that identifies the needs of the whole family within 30 days of enrollment and then annually.

Onsite Evidence Requirements

Completed tool that identifies family needs in at least three areas, including:

- Developmental or educational needs;
- Health needs; and
- Resource needs (such as food, utility assistance).

Resources provided to the family.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Silver Level

Family Partnerships/Community Resources

Program follows up with those families, with identified needs, with referral within 30 days.

Onsite Evidence Requirements

Referral process.
Referrals made to families.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Gold Level

Family Partnerships/Community Resources

Program offers two annual educational trainings, workshops or events for families.

Follow-up with families on referrals provided, within 30 days from the date of referral, to determine if needs are being met for services.

Onsite Evidence Requirements

Two annual educational opportunities.

Referral follow-up process.

Follow ups with families to determine if needs were met.

PROGRAM STANDARD CHANGES

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Removed “Transitions” program standards, including providing information on transitions, preparing children for transitions and preparing individualized transition plans.

Removed “Communication and Engagement” program standards, including providing resources, methods of communication, and information on health and child development topics.



Staff/Child Ratio

STAFF/CHILD RATIOS

Only required for a Gold Level rating.

Does not apply to Family Child Care providers.

Must meet both lower ratio and group size standards.

Must meet in 40% of all groups served.

STAFF CHILD RATIO

Age	Requirement for Gold Rating
Infants	Birth to 12 months 2:10 (Group Size Only) 12 to 18 months 1:5 or 2:10
Toddlers	18 to 30 months 1:6 or 2:12 and 30 to 36 months 1:7 or 2:14
Preschool	36 months to <48 months 1:11 or 2:22 and 48 months to < school age 1:13 or 2:26
School Age	Kindergarten to age 14 years 1:17 or 2:34

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PLAN

TRAINING – NEXT STEPS

Regional Trainings

Provided in partnership with Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies and State Support Teams.

Beginning Fall 2024 – register through Ohio Professional Registry.

On-Demand Training

New training will provide an overview of the SUTQ rules and program standards, and information on applying for a new or increased rating.

Available Fall 2024 - housed in the Ohio Professional Registry.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

CURRENTLY RATED CENTER AND SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS



Bronze Level

Program will be contacted and offered the following:

- Scheduled onsite visit.
- Scheduled phone call.
- Technical assistance included with licensing visit.
- Large district or agency option for a group session.



Silver and Gold Levels



- Programs who would have had a Full SUTQ Visit 2024-25 – **Onsite Visit.**
- Programs who would have had a Focused Review in 2024-25 – **Technical Assistance offered during licensing visit.**
- Large district or agency option for a group session.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

CURRENTLY RATED FAMILY CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

All Rating Levels

Department of Children and Youth and Resource and Referral
Agency staff will partner to offer:

- Group meetings at county or regional level.
- Program can request one-on-one call or on-site technical assistance visit.



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Kids' Corner Newsletter
The Kids' Corner newsletter will provide transition updates, position announcements, and milestone and

Program Rules and Resources
Child Care program policy and procedures, transmittal letters, and other related information.

Calendar
View upcoming events, meetings, and trainings.

Tuesday Times
Crucial information for partners including but not limited to practice and policy changes, funding



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