Step Up To Quality
2024 Licensing Rule Revisions

Higher Education Summit
September 27, 2024

STEP UP TO QUALITY UPDATES

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.

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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 goals of the program.**

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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.

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Eliminated required forms and unnecessary paperwork.

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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.

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RATED PROGRAM UPDATES

- 103 new registrations received since 7/1/24

  o 64 Child Care Centers (32 Bronze, 5 Silver, 27 Gold)

  o 20 School District Based Programs (2 Silver, 18 Gold)

  o 19 Family Child Care Homes (14 Bronze, 3 Silver, 2 Gold)

  o 10 programs have become rated as of 9/21/24

- Currently rated programs:

59.6% of Licensed Programs are Rated

GOLD AWARD	SILVER AWARD	BRONZE AWARD
2,541 Programs	633 Programs	2,285 Programs

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EXEMPTIONS

- (C)(1) Except as provided in division (C)(2) of this section, a licensed child care program may provide publicly funded child care only if the program is rated through the step up to quality program established pursuant to section 5104.29 of the Revised Code.

- (2) A licensed child care program that is any of the following may provide publicly funded child care without being rated through the step up to quality program:

    - (a) A program that operates only during the summer and for not more than fifteen consecutive weeks;

    - (b) A program that operates only during school breaks;

    - (c) A program that operates only on weekday evenings, weekends, or both;

    - (d) A program that holds a provisional license issued under section 5104.03 of the Revised Code;

    - (e) A program that had its step up to quality program rating removed by the department of job and family services within the previous twelve months;

    - (f) A program that is the subject of a revocation action initiated by the department, but the license has not yet been revoked;

    - (g) A program that provides publicly funded child care to less than twenty-five per cent of the program's license capacity;

    - (h) A program that is a type A family child care home or licensed type B family child care home.

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Building Block Model

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

- 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.

Ohio Step Up To Quality — BRONZE AWARD

Ohio Step Up To Quality — SILVER AWARD

Ohio Step Up To Quality — GOLD AWARD

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PROGRAM STANDARDS OVERVIEW

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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 and does not apply to family child care.

Learning and Development

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.

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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)			✓

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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.*

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Silver Level	Gold 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.	**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.

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.

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For Youth   **For Families**   **For Providers**   **For Partners**   ⑦ Contact   🔍 Search

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For Providers

Early childhood professionals across our child care, public health, behavioral health, and developmental disabilities systems help Ohio's children have the healthy start they need to achieve their full potential. Thanks for all you do! Below are resources to help you learn and grow in your career.

Learn about
Infant Toddler Infrastructure Grants

Learn about Ohio's
Step Up To Quality Program

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For Youth   For Families   **For Providers**

Step Up To Quality (SUTQ)

Step Up To Quality

Step Up To Quality

Program Standards, Rules and Forms

Guidance and Implementation

Professional Development and Education

Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) is a three-tier quality rating and improvement system for Ohio's early learning and development programs. SUTQ recognizes and promotes programs that meet and exceed quality program standards. SUTQ program standards are based on national research identifying which lead to improved outcomes for children.

This 90 minute webinar, hosted on August 2, 2024 provides an overview of the changes to Step Up To Quality, including the goals of the revision from a 5-star system to a 3-level system, an overview of the new program standards and how they will be verified, a first-year implementation timeline, and opportunities for additional training and technical assistance.

LICENSING INTEGRATION UPDATE

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APPROACH TO LICENSING INTEGRATION

Review the current regulatory landscape

a. Identify existing requirements and review for redundancies and unnecessary restrictions.

b. Identify how necessary can requirements can be written to improve clarity and compliance.

c. Propose regulatory changes to:

- Reduce restrictions and red tape

- Simplify language to avoid confusion and improve compliance

- Promote efficiency and programmatic improvements

Engage with shareholders

a. Review proposed changes with a working group of impacted shareholders.

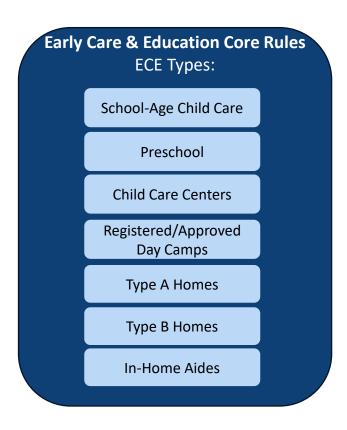b. Take and respond to shareholder feedback.

Draft new regulations

a. Rescind legacy licensing rules that were transferred to DCY.

b. Propose new rules based on the recommendations.

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CATEGORY-BASED CORE RULES

Each **CATEGORY** (ECE, Foster Care, Residential Facilities, SUTQ, and Children Services Licensing Agencies) will each have a set of CORE Rules that apply to ALL types in the category. These core rules represent the minimum requirements an individual/provide must meet to provide care in that category.

Early Care & Education Core Rules
ECE Types:
- School-Age Child Care
- Preschool
- Child Care Centers
- Registered/Approved Day Camps
- Type A Homes
- Type B Homes
- In-Home Aides

Foster Care Core Rules
Foster Care Types:
- Pre-Adoptive Infant
- Kinship Foster Homes
- Family Foster Homes
- Specialized Foster Homes

Step-Up to Quality Core Rules

Children Services Licensing Agencies Core Rules

Residential Facilities Core Rules
Residential Facility Types:
- Childrens Residential Center
- Group Homes
- Children's Crisis Care Facilities
- Residential Parenting Facility
- Private Nonprofit Therapeutic Wilderness Camp
- Family Prevention Center
- Scholars Residential Center
- Residential Infant Care Center

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DIVISION AND CHAPTER STRUCTURE

5180:X Licensing and Monitoring

- **5180:X-1 Requirements for Obtaining and Maintaining an Early Care and Education License or Certificate**
    - 5180:X-1-01 Minimum Requirements for Obtaining and Maintaining an Early Care and Education License or Certificate
    - 5180:X-1-02 Additional Requirements for School-Age Child Care
    - 5180:X-1-03 Additional Requirements for Preschools
    - 5180:X-1-04 Additional Requirements for Child Care Centers
    - 5180:X-1-05 Additional Requirements for Registered/Approved Day Camps
    - 5180:X-1-06 Additional Requirements for Type A Homes
    - 5180:X-1-07 Additional Requirements for Type B Homes
    - 5180:X-1-08 Additional Requirements for In-Home Aides
- **5180:X-2 Requirements for Obtaining and Maintaining a License or Certificate for a Residential Facility**
    - 5180:X-2-01 Minimum Requirements for Obtaining and Maintaining a License or Certificate for a Residential Facility
    - 5180:X-2-02 Additional Requirements for Childrens Residential Centers
    - 5180:X-2-03 Additional Requirements for Group Homes
    - 5180:X-2-04 Additional Requirements for Children's Crisis Care Facilities
    - 5180:X-2-05 Additional Requirements for Residential Parenting Facilities
    - 5180:X-2-06 Additional Requirements for Private Nonprofit Therapeutic Wilderness Camp
    - 5180:X-2-07 Additional Requirements for Family Prevention Center
    - 5180:X-2-08 Additional Requirements for Scholars Residential Center
- **5180:X-3 Requirements for Obtaining and Maintaining a License or Certificate in a Foster Home**
    - 5180:X-3-01 Minimum Requirements for Obtaining and Maintaining a License or Certificate in a Foster Home
    - 5180:X-3-02 Additional Requirements for Pre-Adoptive Infants
    - 5180:X-3-03 Additional Requirements for Kinship Foster Homes
    - 5180:X-3-04 Additional Requirements for Family Foster Homes
    - 5180:X-3-05 Additional Requirements for Specialized Foster Homes
- **5180:X-4 Requirements for Obtaining and Maintaining a Step-Up to Quality Rating**
- **5180:X-5 Requirements for Obtaining and Maintaining a License or Certificate for Children Services Licensing Agencies**

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