

Overview of Key Changes for Proposed Model

Current Stars System	Proposed System	What This Means
Standards and point values and <i>Environment Rating Scales</i> thresholds	Standards, Key Practices, and Pathways	Standards are broad content areas (e.g., <i>Relationships with Children</i>) with sub-areas called Key Practices . Each Key Practice has a Pathway describing steps programs can take to improve. See here for more information about the proposed Standards, Key Practices, and Pathways.
Verification process	Big-Picture Review + Quality Improvement Plan	Program leadership and their TA provider will review indicators across Standards. Based on this high-level “Big-Picture Review,” program leadership will select which standards they would like to work on and will develop a Quality Improvement Plan in collaboration with their TA provider.*
Single star-rating to represent all aspects of program quality	Profile of progress across multiple domains	Rather than collapse all quality information into a single score/rating, the proposed system will focus on where programs are within each standard. This detailed information will allow for more tailored quality improvement supports and help families choose a program that is the best-fit for them.*
Separate licensing process	Integrated licensing and CQI process	The proposed system will use an online portal to facilitate integration of the quality improvement process with licensing monitoring to reduce duplication of effort and burden on programs.
Tiered reimbursement based on star-rating	Quality investment supports (phased in)	Programs will continue to receive their current levels of tiered reimbursement payments through July 1, 2023. * After this point, the way in which these funds are distributed will change to better support quality improvement. The state is considering options such as payments made based on enrollment rather than attendance or paid in advance rather than after services are rendered. Quality improvement funds will also be available to programs through American Rescue Plan funding.
Voluntary system for licensed programs	All licensed programs participate (phased in)	All licensed programs will eventually participate in the continuous quality improvement system. Increased participation will be gradually phased in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot: 2022 (exact dates TBD) • All POC programs participating by July 1, 2024 (voluntary until then) • All licensed programs participating by July 1, 2026 (voluntary until then)
Licensing requirements for staff qualifications	Higher qualifications expected and supported (phased in)	The state will adopt new workforce competencies and support professionals in growing their skills and knowledge as a recruitment and retention strategy. By July 1, 2028, all early childhood professionals employed in a licensed program will be required to have at least a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential or equivalent.*

*** Note:** The specifics of many processes are still under consideration, and we invite you to join us this summer to engage in discussion and to offer feedback (dates TBD).