



DRAFT QUALITY STANDARDS

Webinar for Stakeholders
September 11, 2023

Rulemaking Process for the Quality Standards

1 Vision for quality standards

Today's presentation is the **vision** for Universal Preschool Quality Standards.

2 Initial stakeholder input

Today's presentation is **not the rule**. Your initial feedback on the vision will inform the rule.

3 Draft rule language for input

Rule language **posted for at least 30 days** for review and public comment.

4 Additional review and input

RAC County Subcommittee, RAC, and two rounds of Public Rulemaking with CDEC Executive Director.

5 Rule in place in advance of the 2024-25 school year

Agenda

Purpose: present the draft Universal Preschool Quality Standards, address FAQ, and share Stakeholder Feedback Form.

1 Welcome & Rulemaking Process

Dawn Odean and Grace Eckel, Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC)

2 Project Overview & Timeline

Angela Rothermel, Early Milestones Colorado

3 Draft Quality Standards

Dr. Katie Squibb and Morgan Janke, Early Years Forward

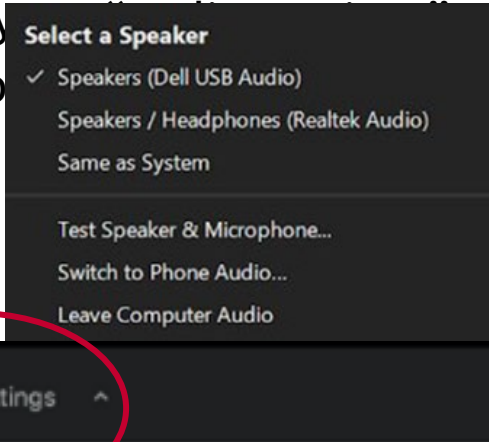
4 Grant Opportunities & Stakeholder Feedback

McKenna Roholt, CDEC, and Angela Rothermel, Early Milestones Colorado

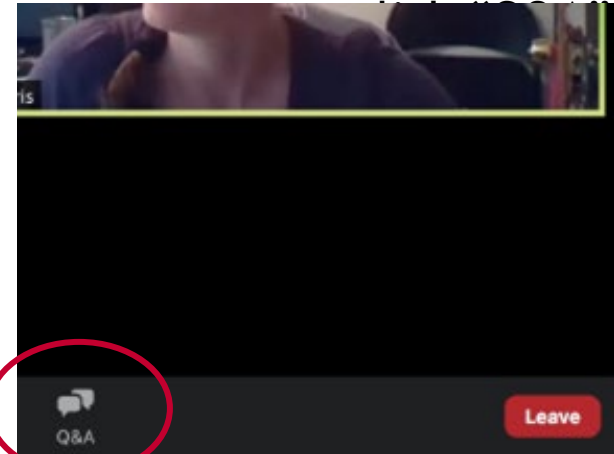
Zoom Webinar Reminders

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Overview & Timeline



Project Overview

Quality Standards (QS)

Develop Universal Preschool quality standards that reflect national and community-informed best practices, and provide support to CDEC staff for rulemaking.

Activities to develop the **Quality Standards** were launched **March 2023** for adoption in **January 2024**

Resource Bank (RB) Plan

Design a plan for a Universal Preschool Provider and Local Coordinating Organization (LCO) Resource Bank that advances state and national best practices and is responsive to the full spectrum of Universal Preschool providers requiring differentiated pathways of support in the mixed delivery system.

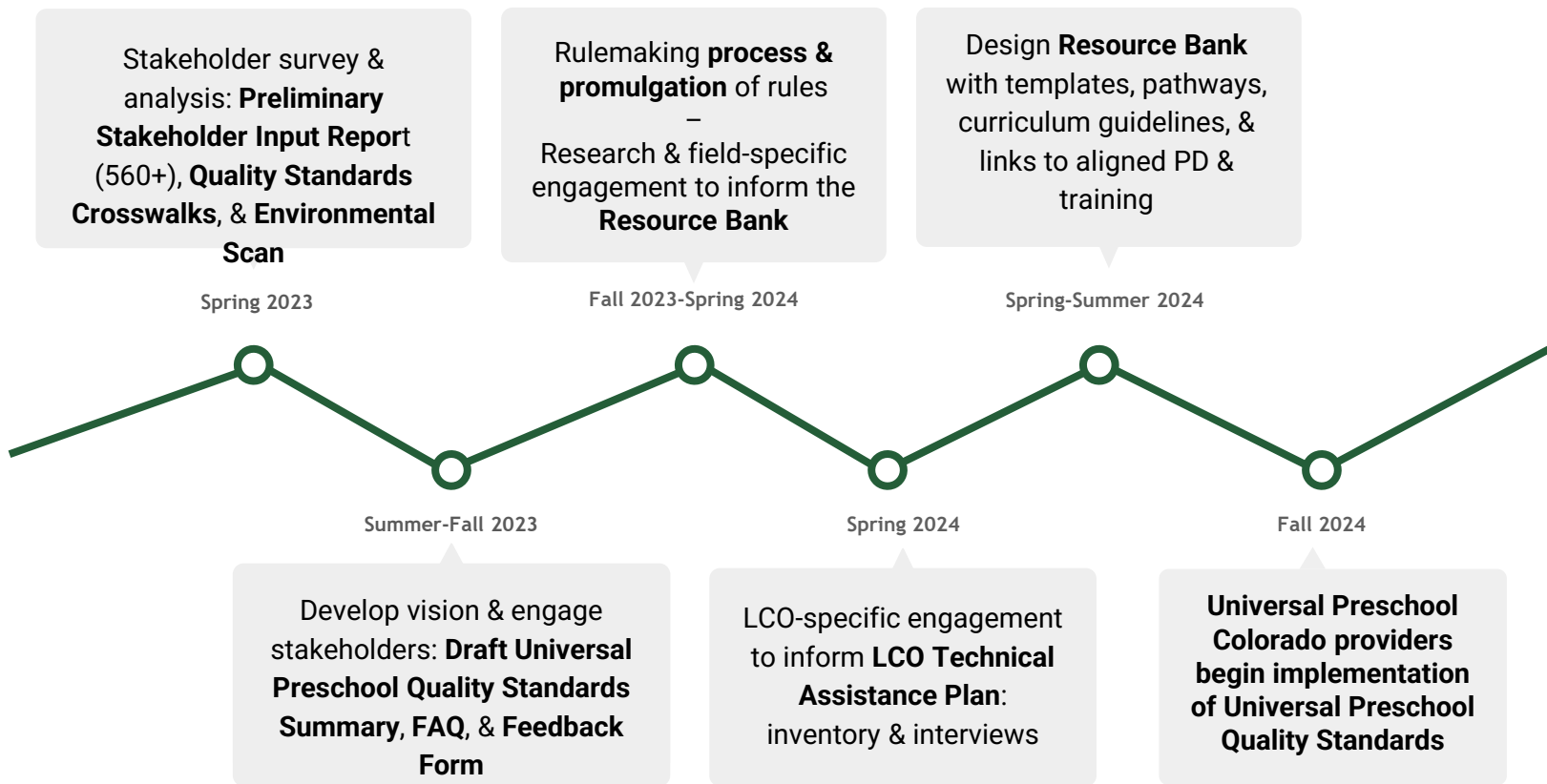
Activities to develop the **Resource Bank Plan** and **LCO TA Plan & Tools** will launch **October 2023** and continue into **2024**

LCO TA Plan & Tools

Design a LCO Technical Assistance Plan with supporting tools that, when implemented, will be responsive to LCO needs and assets, and place the highest value on equitable access to high quality Universal Preschool for diverse populations.

Early Milestones Colorado in partnership with Early Years Forward

Project Timeline



Related Documents

Previously released in Spring 2023:

- [Quality Standards Crosswalks](#)
- [Preliminary Stakeholder Input Report](#)

Posted to CDEC [Public Notice Information](#) on 9/1/23:

- [Draft Universal Preschool Colorado Quality Standards](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)
- [Stakeholder Input Form](#)

Draft Universal Preschool Quality Standards



Input & Analysis

670+

STAKEHOLDERS

2021 Pre-K Community Input Sessions
2023 UPK Quality Standards Survey

- Reduce burden on families and UPK providers by leveraging existing standards and best practices
- Engage families and UPK providers in vetting the UPK Quality Standards
- Honor different pedagogical approaches and settings

16+

NAT'L STANDARDS & BEST PRACTICES

Caring for Our Children
DEC Recommended Practices
Head Start, Ideal Learning,
NAEYC, NAFCC, NIEER, and more

- Quality standards should focus on items associated with effective programming and be influenced by the priorities of the state
- There is no one size fits all approach

10+

CO STANDARDS & BEST PRACTICES

Academic Standards and ELDGs
CDE Quality Standards for ECE
Colorado Shines, Child Care Rules and Regulations, Early Childhood Framework, and more

- Colorado's existing standards reflect national standards and best practices
- Colorado leads the nation in embedding mental health supports in the early childhood system

Incorporating Stakeholder Input & Priorities

Stakeholder Priorities	Actions Taken
Alignment with Existing Standards Importance of not overburdening providers with multiple sets of standards to navigate.	The draft Universal Preschool QS are aligned with licensing rules, Colorado Shines, former CPP requirements, and national standards to avoid unnecessary provider burden.
Different Pedagogical Approaches or Settings Concerns about a pedagogical approach or preschool setting not aligning with potential standards.	The draft Universal Preschool QS allow for a variety of approaches aligned with best practices while maintaining consistency across settings, including Family Child Care Homes and Montessori.
Cost to Universal Preschool Providers Concerns about the potential expense of meeting additional standards.	The draft Universal Preschool QS are designed to be implemented in a variety of funding scenarios .
Stakeholder Engagement Importance of engaging stakeholders beyond the initial planning and preliminary survey.	Robust engagement will continue throughout the project including webinars, feedback sessions in English and Spanish, toolkits, and surveys.

Quality Universal Preschool in a Mixed Delivery System



Vision for Resource Bank

Vetted and approved curricula, assessments, and screeners

No requirement for adoption of a single curriculum or pedagogical approach



Definitions for best practice in activity areas such as screening, early childhood mental health, and family engagement



Aligned and approved training and professional development (PD) resources

Leverage PDIS modules, existing coaching initiatives, and embedded learning across a variety of settings and types



Foundational Supports

Resources critical to success and support of preschool in a variety of settings (community-based, home-based, and school-based).

Elevating All Preschool Providers

A mixed delivery model is mandated in HB 22-1295 meaning any program is eligible to participate in Universal Preschool Colorado if it is licensed and meets Basic Requirements. For this reason, in the draft Universal Preschool QS:

- **“Universal Preschool Provider”** refers to any preschool program charged with delivery of Universal Preschool in any setting
- **Universal Preschool “Educator”** refers to the staff responsible for direct care and education of children in those settings
- **Universal Preschool “Administrator”** refers to the staff who design and implement program operations to assure that Universal Preschool Quality Standards are met.

In some cases, such as a family child care home, the Universal Preschool “educator” and Universal Preschool “administrator” may be the same individual.

Teacher Qualifications

- Requirements for Universal Preschool teacher qualifications are not included in the draft Universal Preschool Quality Standards.
- Determining teacher qualification requirements for Universal Preschool providers is an ongoing, separate process.
- For the 2024-25 school year, the Universal Preschool Quality Standards will maintain the teacher qualification requirements established in the Department's child care licensing rules.



Basic Requirements

Foundational components to be eligible to serve as a Universal Preschool Provider:

- **Contact Hours**
- **Compliance with Health and Safety Regulations:** all preschool providers must be licensed by the Division of Early Learning and Licensing Administration (DELLA)
- **Ratio and Group Size**
- **Equal Opportunity**
- **Disciplinary Measures/Suspension and Expulsion**

Draft Universal Preschool Quality Standards At-A-Glance

INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICE

🎯 **IP-1.** Universal Preschool providers will utilize an early learning and assessment approach (approved for inclusion in the RB) that:

- Aligns with Colorado's Academic Standards and ELDGs
- Uses assessment findings for instructional decision-making
- Is culturally and developmentally appropriate (play-based)
- Is inclusive and appropriate for the diverse needs of individual learners (ex: dual language learners)

★ **IP-2.** Within 6 months of employment, lead educators in Universal Preschool classrooms and family child care homes will have completed 8 hours of PD in the Universal Preschool provider's selected early learning and assessment approach.*

☑ **IP-3.** Approximately every 3 years, Universal Preschool providers will receive an independent on-site observation of environmental quality (physical and relational) from Colorado Shines or an alternative (approved for inclusion in the RB).

***Note: All PD hours will be counted towards "ongoing PD" as required by Child Care Licensing, and previously completed PD hours will be counted towards this requirement.**

HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT

🎯 **HD-1.** Universal Preschool providers will document their policy/process to:

- Support children and families experiencing trauma and/or adversity by utilizing best practices in early childhood mental health (ECMH), such as access to ECMH Consultation
- Offer (or coordinate with local partners to offer) health screening (hearing, vision, dental), feedback, and referral to additional services, if requested, in the family's home language
- Offer (or coordinate with local partners to offer) developmental (physical and social-emotional) screening (approved for inclusion in the UP-RB), feedback, and referral to additional services if requested in the family's home language

★ **HD-2.** Within 12 months of employment, all educators and administrators in Universal Preschool classrooms and family child care homes will have completed 8 hours of PD in ECMH/appropriate discipline practices, trauma-informed care, and best practices in developmental screening and referrals.*

☑ **HD-3.** Universal Preschool providers will notify participating families of the opportunity to participate in an annual Universal Preschool Survey of Families' Experiences.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

🎯 **FC-1.** Universal Preschool providers will document their policy/process for:

- Using interpreters or other language resources to effectively communicate with families in their home language
- Seeking input from families on priorities, interests, home routines, cultural and social practices
- Partnering with families around goals that inform interactions and instruction with children, including dual language learners
- Engaging families and community partners in decision-making about Universal Preschool provider operations
- Involving families in transition of their children into and out of the program, including between classrooms and into kindergarten

★ **FC-2.** Within 12 months of employment, lead educators and at least one administrator for Universal Preschool classrooms and family child care homes will have completed 8 hours of professional development in meaningful and culturally appropriate family and community engagement.*

☑ **FC-3.** Universal Preschool providers will notify participating families of the opportunity to participate in an annual Universal Preschool Survey of Families' Experiences.

Standard 1: Instructional Practice

Instructional Practice (IP) is considered to be everything preschool providers 'do' with children. A well-balanced pedagogical approach or curriculum supports the development of the whole child and incorporates assessment.

IP-1. Universal Preschool providers will utilize an early learning and assessment approach (approved for inclusion in the RB) that:

- Aligns with Colorado's Academic Standards and Early Learning and Development Guidelines
- Uses assessment findings for instructional decision-making
- Is culturally and developmentally appropriate (play-based)
- Is inclusive and appropriate for the diverse needs of individual learners (ex: dual language learners)



Will a particular curriculum be required by Universal Preschool Colorado? No. A particular curriculum is not required. Universal Preschool providers will be required to utilize an early learning and assessment approach that is high quality as defined in IP-1. (from FAQ)

Standard 1: Instructional Practice

Instructional Practice (IP) is considered to be everything preschool providers ‘do’ with children. A well-balanced pedagogical approach or curriculum supports the development of the whole child and incorporates assessment.

IP-2. By 6 months of employment, lead educators in UPK classrooms and family child care homes will have completed 8 hours of professional development in the UPK provider’s selected early learning and assessment approach (including best practices in developmental and cultural appropriateness, meeting the needs of dual language learners, inclusion, and teacher-child interactions).



Are the training requirements one-time or annual? *These training requirements are one-time and NOT annually recurring. Further, Universal Preschool providers and lead educators may satisfy the training requirements with training hours they have completed prior to the launch of Universal Preschool. For example, an educator that completed training in their program's selected instructional approach in June 2021 will be able to apply those hours toward the training requirement for IP-2.*
(from FAQ)

Standard 1: Instructional Practice

Instructional Practice (IP) is considered to be everything preschool providers 'do' with children. A well-balanced pedagogical approach or curriculum supports the development of the whole child and incorporates assessment.

IP-3. Approximately every 3 years, Universal Preschool providers will receive an independent on-site observation of environmental quality (physical and relational) from Colorado Shines or an alternative (approved for inclusion in the UP-RB).



I will be getting an Environment Rating Scale (ERS) observation from Colorado Shines, does this mean that I need another one? No. Programs that choose to participate in both Colorado Shines and Universal Preschool Colorado will not need to receive an observation from both initiatives. An ERS observation from Colorado Shines will be an accepted way to meet IP-3 within Universal Preschool. (from FAQ)

Standard 2: Healthy Development

Healthy Development (HD) ensures preschool providers support the healthy bodies and minds of children. Addressing children's development is a critical component of a whole child approach.

HD-1. UPK providers will document their policy/process to:

- Support children and families experiencing trauma and/or adversity by utilizing best practices in early childhood mental health (ECMH) and access to ECMH Consultation
- Coordinate with local partners to offer health screening (hearing, vision, dental), feedback, and referral to additional services, if requested, in the family's home language
- Coordinate with local partners to offer developmental (physical and social-emotional) screening (approved for inclusion in the UPK-RB), feedback, and referral to additional services if requested in the family's home language



Does HD-1 mean that Universal Preschool providers have to directly provide developmental screening (physical and social-emotional) and health screening (hearing, vision, dental) to Universal Preschool students? What about referral? *No. Providers are NOT required to personally conduct health and development screening. The draft standards require that all children have access to this screening to support their overall development but does not specify that these screenings must be conducted by the Universal Preschool provider. (from FAQ)*

Standard 2: Healthy Development

Healthy Development (HD) ensures preschool providers support the healthy bodies and minds of children. Addressing children's development is a critical component of a whole child approach.

HD-2. By 12 months of employment, all educators and administrators in UPK classrooms and family child care homes will have completed 8 hours of professional development in early childhood mental health/appropriate discipline practices, trauma-informed care, and best practices in developmental screening and referrals.

HD-3. UPK providers will notify participating UPK families of the opportunity to participate in an annual UPK Survey of Families' Experiences with screening, referral and early childhood mental health practices.



How will the “Universal Preschool Survey of Families’ Experiences” work? *This survey is intended to hear directly from participating families about their experiences related to specific Universal Preschool practices. Providers are not responsible for creating or overseeing the survey process. However, providers will be required to notify families of the opportunity to give feedback about their experiences in the Universal Preschool program. Survey completion will be voluntary for families and available in multiple languages. (from FAQ)*

Standard 3: Family & Community Engagement

Family and Community Engagement (FC) allows for affirmation of all aspects of children's identity and acknowledges families as their child's first caregiver and most important teacher.

FC-1. UPK providers will document their policy/process for:

- Using interpreters or other language resources to effectively communicate with families in their home language
- Seeking input from families on priorities, interests, home routines, cultural and social practices
- Partnering with families around goals that inform interactions and instruction with children, including dual language learners
- Engaging families and community partners in decision-making about UPK provider operations
- Involving families in transition of their children into and out of the program, including between classrooms and into kindergarten



What does it mean that “Universal Preschool programs will document their policy/process”? *These areas have significant impact for both children and families. Universal Preschool providers will submit a copy of their policy as it relates to the standard. This could include excerpts or copies from a staff or family handbook, or another place where policies are published, such as the program's website. (from FAQ)*

Standard 3: Family & Community Engagement

Family and Community Engagement (FC) allows for affirmation of all aspects of children's identity and acknowledges families as their child's first caregiver and most important teacher.

FC-2. By 12 months of employment, lead educators and at least one administrator for UPK classrooms and family child care homes will have completed 8 hours of professional development in meaningful and culturally appropriate family and community engagement.

FC-3. UPK providers will notify participating UPK families of the opportunity to participate in an annual UPK Survey of Families' Experiences with meaningful and culturally appropriate involvement in the program



Will Universal Preschool providers be required to meet these standards in the 2023-24 school year?

No. Universal Preschool providers are not required to make any changes this school year. Please refer to CDEC Operational Memo [OM-UPK-2023-0001](#) (released April 5, 2023) for further details. The draft Universal Preschool Quality Standards are not yet adopted and the CDEC is seeking feedback from stakeholders before proceeding with official rulemaking processes. (from FAQ)

Facilitating a Positive Provider Experience

2023-24 School Year

- A voluntary survey should be sent to all Universal Preschool Providers to self-report on their current quality practices.
- This information, in combination with stakeholder engagement, can be used to inform the development of the resources that are made available to Universal Preschool Providers in the future.

2024-25 School Year

- The Universal Preschool Quality Standards should begin to go into effect.
- Key components of the online Resource Bank should be in place and available to Universal Preschool providers before they are required to demonstrate compliance with the Universal Preschool Quality Standards.

Preschool Provider Grant Opportunities

Provider Capacity Building

- Applications open 9/15/23 - 10/31/23
- Any Universal Preschool provider who is active, signed the agreement, and has matches is eligible
- Funding categories:
 - Furniture, Educational Materials and Supplies, Health Care Materials and Supplies, Technology, Site Infrastructure

Provider Bonus

- [Provider Bonuses Fact Sheet](#)
- Attestation available in September
- Universal Preschool providers who have never done CPP, active, signed the agreement and have matches by 8/31/23
- \$800 One-time payment
- Additional payment for UPK providers that maintain or expand infant and toddler capacity

Eligible providers will receive a direct link to apply for these opportunities from MetrixIQ

Stakeholder Input

Scan the code below or go to
<http://bit.ly/3PaG90h>
to submit feedback.



COLORADO
Department of Early Childhood

Stakeholder Input Regarding the draft Universal Preschool Colorado Quality Standards

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) has recently posted draft Universal Preschool Quality Standards for stakeholder input. Please use this form to submit your questions, comments, and suggestions regarding the proposed

Universal Preschool Quality Standards. To review the rulemaking timeline for the

Universal Preschool Quality Standards, please review the [Rules Advisory Council's \(RAC\) webpage](#) or [CDEC Rule Tracker](#). These rulemaking resources are regularly updated with current information, as it becomes available.

THANK YOU!

