



Early Achievers Re-Rate Policy

WHAT: Free Re-Rate

WHO: Early Achievers participants that provide ECEAP, Head Start or Working Connections Child Care subsidy services qualify for one free re-rate per three year rating cycle. Participants who do not provide ECEAP, HS or WCCC services are not eligible for a free re-rate.

WHEN: Early Achievers participants can request their free re-rate up until the 30th month of the three year rating cycle.

WHERE: Participants will request their re-rate through the *Early Achievers Request for On-Site Evaluation* in MERIT.*

WHY: Accessing a free re-rate can help sites reach the rating mandate outlined in the Early Start Act for their program type. Going through a re-rate and achieving a higher rating can also give sites access to larger quality improvement awards and higher subsidy reimbursement rates.

*Licensed pathway sites will use the QRIS inbox to request their re-rate until the application is released in MERIT in March 2016.

Free re-rate options:

- A. Early Achievers Participants that provide ECEAP services may select any combination of the following measures for their free re-rate:
- Environment Rating Scale
 - Classroom Assessment Scoring System
 - Full Quality Standards Checklist including Professional Development points (only relevant for Licensed Pathway participants with less than 75% HS/ECEAP slots)
- B. Early Achievers participants that provide Head Start or Working Connections Child Care Subsidies services and NO ECEAP services may select any combination of the following measures for their free re-rate:
- Environment Rating Scale
 - Classroom Assessment Scoring System
 - Limited Quality Standards Checklist including Professional Development points, the Strengthening Families Self-Assessment and Early Learning Guidelines training**

**Participants that select the Limited Quality Standards are eligible to obtain the five points needed to reach a Level 3 by completing both of the following on-line:

- Washington State Early Learning Guidelines Training accessible at <http://cca.deltraining.com/> (3 points) and
- Strengthening Families Self-Assessment and Action plan (2 points)

Once approved for a re-rate, facilities may submit these documents to their Community Liaison at the University of Washington via email or US mail (see mailing address at end of this document) within five calendar days of the re-rate approval.

Steps to prepare for a re-rate

1. Work with the site coach to help prepare the facility for the re-rate. It is highly recommended that site staff work with the assigned coach to ensure the facility has made significant progress on its quality improvement goals.
2. Complete the *Interactive Rating Readiness Tool*, indicating which items in the Records Review to be assessed.

Process to request a re-rate:

- **Licensed pathway:** The Primary QRIS contact will submit the request for re-rate using the Early Achievers Request for On-Site Evaluation in MERIT.
- **HS/ECEAP pathway or Hybrid pathway:** When the facility/site is ready to re-rate, the Facility/Site Designee will request a re-rate on the facility/site's behalf using the Early Achievers Request for On-Site Evaluation in MERIT.

Other Re-Rate Options

WHAT: Paid Re-Rate

WHO: Sites that do not provide HS, ECEAP, or WCCC services are eligible for a paid re-rate. Sites that have already used their free re-rate and did not have the desired outcome are eligible for a paid re-rate. Re-rate costs are based on facility size.

WHEN: Eligible participants can request a paid re-rate up until the 30th month of the three year rating cycle.

WHERE: Participants request their paid re-rate by submitting the *Early Achievers Request for On-Site Evaluation* in MERIT* and submitting their payment for their rating. Payments (checks or purchase orders) made payable to "CQEL" should be mailed to:

CQEL
 Attention: Early Achievers Re-rate
 5001 25th Ave NE, Suite 201
 Seattle, WA 98105

WHY: Participants may want to achieve a higher level of quality sooner than the three year rating cycle in order to access larger quality improvement awards, higher subsidy reimbursement rates. Sites may also still need to achieve their rating mandate after already using the free re-rate.

*Licensed pathway sites will use the QRIS inbox to request their re-rate until the application is released in MERIT in March 2016.

Paid Re-Rate Eligibility and Options

All Early Achievers participants are eligible for a paid re-rate and may select any combination of the following measures for their re-rate:

- Environment Rating Scale
- Classroom Assessment Scoring System
- Full Quality Standards including Professional Development points (only relevant for Licensed Pathway participants with less than 75% HS/ECEAP slots)

Fees for Paid Re-Rate:

Number of Classrooms/Learning Environments	Facility's Portion of the Re-Rating Cost for 1 or 2 measures	Facility's Portion of Re-Rating Cost for all 3 measures (ERS, CLASS and Quality Standards)
1-2	\$750	\$1000
3-4	\$1500	\$2000
5-10	\$2500	\$3000
11 or more	\$3500	\$4000

Quality Improvement Awards

If a participant has already received their annual Quality Improvement Award for the year, they will receive a difference payment so their total annual award equals the amount for their current rated level. If they have not yet received their annual quality improvement award, they will receive the full amount for their current rated level. Annual Quality Improvement Award payments will not exceed the amount of the participant's highest rated level for that year. Beginning on July 1, 2016, only Early Achievers participants that serve at least 5% WCCC will be eligible for a quality improvement award.

Additional Information and Questions

- **Licensed Pathway Participants:** please address questions to the facility's Regional Coordinator at the local Child Care Aware of Washington office or via email to the QRIS Inbox (qris@del.wa.gov).
- **HS/ECEAP Pathway Participants:** please address questions to the site's Head Start Grantee or ECEAP Contractor or via email to the QRIS Inbox (qris@del.wa.gov).