



Updates to the Early Achievers Participant Operating Guidelines

The updated Early Achievers Operating Guidelines are here! The updated guidelines go into effect beginning July 2017.

For your convenience, the Department of Early Learning has created this reference list outlining updates made to this year's Operating Guidelines.

Added:

- An overview of the Early Achievers Review Subcommittee and its work.
- A non-discrimination statement.
- New chapter on preparing for the on-site evaluation.
- Accreditation policy.
- Substitute pool overview.
- New chapter on participation for rated facilities.

Updated:

- The description of the Quality Standards and point distribution to incorporate the updated policy information released this past winter and spring (such as the points required to receive Areas of Specialization).
- Licensing status and Early Achievers participant eligibility so that providers with initial and probationary licenses may now complete Level 2 activities, thus eliminating a barrier for newer providers. Providers will still need a full non-expiring license to request an on-site evaluation.
- The term "coach" is now used throughout Early Achievers participation, replacing references to "technical assistance specialist" and "rating readiness consultant".
- Changed "Primary and Secondary QRIS Contact" to "Early Achievers Contact(s)".
- The Early Achievers participation agreement is now required at least once every three years. Participants will sign the agreement upon enrollment and when they request a rating (instead of annually).
- The description of the data collection process to include the streamlined ERS and CLASS only data collection and full data collection options.
- Family Child Care providers will receive notification of placement in first or second half of their rating cohort for on-site evaluation once they are scheduled for data collection.



- To provide greater flexibility for participants, renewal ratings may be requested up to twelve months before participants' current rating expires (instead of six months).
- Included the expanded list of child care subsidies that count toward the 5% calculation for Quality Improvement (QI) Awards.
- Changes in address or ownership are now handled on an individual basis. Early Achievers participants who undergo a change in address or ownership should contact DEL QRIS support staff to determine how this change will affect their participation status.

Removed:

- References to the Early Achievers orientation. This step has been eliminated and will become part of the child care licensing orientation.
- Facility Profile and Self-Assessment from Level 2 activities. These steps are no longer required.
- References to the name "WELS" and the Early Achievers applications in MERIT have been removed in preparation for the upcoming move to the WA Compass data system.

The updated Early Achievers Participant Operating Guidelines are available on DEL's website at <https://del.wa.gov/earlyachievers>.