

Early Achievers Updates Spring 2017

Shortened Level 2 Application

Early Achievers has eliminated several steps for providers working on Level 2 requirements. Beginning as early as April 27, 2017, the Facility Profile and Facility Self-Assessment will be removed from the Level 2 Application. The shortened application is part of the Department of Early Learning’s ongoing efforts to ensure that Early Achievers components are relevant for providers and contribute to positive outcomes for children and families.

Current Level 2 Requirements	Simplified Level 2 Requirements
Staff Professional Records	Staff Professional Records
Facility Profile	No longer required!
Professional Training Series	Professional Training Series
Facility Self-Assessment	No longer required!

Level 2 Supports Available to Participants

There are many supports and resources available to help providers prepare for their on-site evaluation, including the new substitute pool and a limited time [Level 2 Completion Needs-Based Grant](#). For more information about Level 2 supports, visit our website at del.wa.gov/EarlyAchievers-PreRatingToolkit.

Early Achievers Recognizes Accredited Providers

Beginning this summer, Early Achievers will offer recognition for providers that have demonstrated a commitment to quality through national accreditation. At the time of rating, qualifying participants will receive five accreditation points toward their rating, as well as an Accreditation Area of Specialization on their Early Achievers Certificate. This policy will only impact ratings conducted after this policy takes effect. Rated sites accredited by recognized agencies will be eligible for the accreditation alignment points on their next scheduled rating, re-rating or renewal rating. To be eligible, facilities must be fully accredited by agencies that have been formally assessed by the Early Achievers Accreditation Review Team. At this time, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) and the American Montessori Society (AMS) have met the application requirements.

Quality Standards Points Update

The Department of Early Learning's commitment to streamlined Early Achievers participation continues with an update to the Quality Standards point distribution. As of July 16, 2017, participants will be able to receive one point for adopting the WaKIDS or aligned assessment in addition to the point received for the use of an aligned assessment for all children. As a result, the Early Learning Guideline training for staff will now be worth two points, rather than three. This update reflects similar requirements for curricular alignment, as well as the ongoing Standards Alignment process.

Simplified File Sampling Process

Beginning July 16, 2017, data collectors will begin reviewing one-third, but no fewer than three, files in each sampled classroom during on-site evaluations. Currently, data collectors review 100% of child files in the sampled classrooms.

Expanded Curricula and Assessment Lists

Since Early Achievers began in 2012, providers have submitted evidence to demonstrate alignment to state curricular and assessment guidelines through the Curricular and WaKIDS alignment tools. Together with the University of Washington, DEL has created a list of those curricula and assessments that have demonstrated alignment. Providers using any of the curricula on the list will receive one point for aligned curricula without completing the Curricular Alignment Tool. In addition, streamlined Quality Standards mean that facilities using assessments on the list will receive one point for using an aligned assessment and will not need to complete the WaKIDS alignment tool. Participants can simply note this information on their Interactive Rating Readiness Tool and show the data collectors the curricula or assessment during the onsite observation. The lists will be updated periodically and participants will receive notification when new curricula/assessments are added. Together with the shortened alignment tools and updated Quality Standards, these expanded lists will simplify the curricula and assessment alignment process for participants!