

Changes to BrightStars Center/Preschool Standards

HEALTH, SAFETY AND NUTRITION (Previously: Child's Daily Experience)

Additions:

- Added early learning programs in public schools must be in compliance with Basic Education Program (BEP) standards at Star 1- Star 5.
- Added Star 2 programs must participate in ECERS/ITERS training and conduct a ECERS/ITERS self-assessment.

Changes:

- All programs at Star 3-Star 5 must have ECERS/ITERS assessments completed and meet benchmarks (no longer waived for NAEYC accredited programs, however three other standards were determined to meet or exceed requirements for NAEYC accredited programs and Head Start Programs) . See below for additional information.

Removals: None

ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING (Previously: Staff-Child Ratio and Group Size)

Additions: None

Changes: None

Removals:

- Removed group divider standard, Star 2-5.
- Removed requirement at Star 4 and Star 5 that age of youngest child in the group is used to determine ratio/group size.

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (Previously: Staff Qualifications)

Additions:

- Added at Star 3, increase requirements for teachers with CDA to have an additional 6 credit hours in ECE/related field (CDA equivalent to 6 college credits at CCRI).
- Added at Star 5, increase number of college credits in ECE/related for teachers to 24 (from 18).
- Added requirements for public school teachers at Star 3 - Star 5.
- Added requirement that director, now called the administrator, have RIELDS training at Star 4.
- Added Education Coordinator and requirement that Education Coordinators have RIELDS training at Star 3-Star 5.

Changes:

- At Star 5, change requirement that “all teachers” meet educational qualifications to “75% of teachers”.
- At Star 3, remove option of having teachers with AA/higher who do not meet benchmark of 12 college credits in ECE/related field.
- At Star 4, change requirement that all teachers have CDA, AA/higher to 25% have AA/higher or 60 college credits (which is equivalent to an AA).
- Directors are now called Administrators.
- Change requirements for director education qualifications at Star 3 - Star 5. Star 3 requires AA degree or higher; Star 4 requires BA degree or higher; and Star 5 requires BA degree or higher and 12 college credits in ECE/related field.

Removals:

- Removed stipulation that a RI Early Childhood Teaching Certification is equivalent to RIELDS.

ADMINISTRATION (Previously: Program Management)

Additions:

- Added requirements for multiple sources of evidence for the Program Self-Assessment at Star 2 - Star 5.
- Added requirements for using multiple sources of evidence to inform the Quality Improvement Plan at Star 2 – Star 5.

Changes: None

Removals: None

EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (Previously: Teaching and Learning)

Additions:

- Added at Star 3, requirement to have written curriculum aligned with RIELDS.
- Added Star 4 programs must participate in CLASS training and conduct a CLASS self-assessment.
- Added at Star 5, requirement that providers collaborate with Child Outreach for on-site screenings or provide specific dates and locations of Child Outreach screenings to parents.
- Added at Star 5, requirement that providers use valid and reliable child assessment tools to inform curriculum planning.
- Added at Star 3- Star 5, requirement that provider has a written philosophy statement to welcome and make accommodations to include/integrate children with developmental delays and disabilities
- Added at Star 5, requirement that programs make staff available to collaborate with IEP/IFSP teams by attending meetings, participating in relevant trainings, and/or sharing information to support children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families.

- Added at Star 3-Star 5 for curriculum, option for NAEYC accredited programs and Head Start programs that are in compliance with their curriculum requirements to waive written curriculum requirements.
- Added at Star 3-Star 5 for child assessment, option for NAEYC accredited programs and Head Start programs that are in compliance with their child assessment requirements to waive developmental screening, child outreach and child assessment requirements.

Changes:

- Repeated RIELDS training requirements under Curriculum for Star 3 – Star 5.
- Repeated Learning Environment requirements under Curriculum for Star 3 – Star 5.

Removals:

- Removed requirements at Star 2- Star 3 to conduct a self-study of curriculum.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (Previously: Family Communication and Involvement)

Additions:

- Added at Star 4-5, requirement that program conducts annual family survey.
- Added at Star 5, requirement that programs use at least 3 (instead of 2) family communication strategies.
- Added at Star 3-Star 5, option for NAEYC accredited programs and Head Start programs that are in compliance with family engagement standards to waive review of all family engagement practices.

Changes:

- At Star 2 – Star 5, three new options for family communication (support families during program transitions; connect families with EI/Special Ed as needed, and connect families with community services as needed).