

## Step 1: Orientation Webinar

### START

"Hello and Welcome the Orientation webinar for out-of-school time programs interested in participating in Great Start to Quality. This is first video of four to support you to complete the self-assessment process and submit your program to become a rated program. Each video in the series is designed to help you know exactly how to complete the process on your own if you'd like to. If at any point you would like assistance you can contact your Great Start to Quality Resource Center.

This map shows the coverage area for each of the Great Start to Quality Resource Center. You can use this number 1-877-614-7328, to contact your Resource Center at any time.

In this video you'll learn the basic of Great Start to Quality, what the eligibility requirements are for out-of-school time programs, what the benefits for programs and families are and what the next step it is that you should take if you're interested in participating.

So what is Great Start to Quality?

Great Start to Quality is Michigan's quality rating and improvement system for all licensed programs that serve children under the age of 12. It is led by the Office of Great start within the Michigan Department of Education, implemented by the Early Childhood Investment Corporation and Great Start to Quality Resource Centers and is funded using CCDF dollars.

Great Start to Quality offers programs the opportunity to reflect on their program and increase the quality of the care and education provided. Great Start to Quality provides 24/7 access to a free searchable database of all licensed programs in Michigan, with ratings and program information for families. Great Start to Quality helps policy makers support quality improvement and provides accountability so investments can be made confidently. Great Start to Quality is a roadmap to and supports for quality improvement for child care, preschool, and out-of-school time programs.

This process is a 100% voluntary opportunity to reflect on the quality of your program. Great Start to Quality supports programs serving schoolagers only; defined by child care licensing as a child from the age 4 years 9 months (meaning the youngest age a child can enter kindergarten) to age 12. This age group is generally referred to as ages 5 to 12.

Programs that serve any children who have not yet reached the age required to enter kindergarten, for example a preschool with a schoolage summer program, will continue to participate in Great Start to Quality in the **same way as they always have**. The process we are going to walk you through is for programs that serve only schoolagers.

The process for programs who are licensed to serve schoolagers only is hosted on the internet; however if your program cannot access the internet or has a slow connection your local Great Start to Quality Resource Center can support you in the submission process.

So what are the benefits for programs?

### **Pace**

- You decide how quickly the move through the process. A program can move at their own pace, up until the submission of the web form in Step 4. This is an opportunity for you to reflect on your program, it is not a race. Your progress will be saved for you to come back to when the program is ready. You will learn more about this in the next video.

### **2 year rating**

- The programs rating is valid for two years, pending any new protocols. Your rating will display on the program's public profile through the Great Start to Quality website. Your program can be searched by your program's licensing information, and will include the star rating and any additional information you decide to include.

### **Tiered reimbursement**

- For those programs participating in the Child Develop Care Subsidy program, once your Self-Assessment Survey has been validated (meaning that a validator has reviewed your submission and determined the program's final rating) you will be eligible for Tiered reimbursement. Programs that rate at 2 Star or above will see an increase in their subsidy rate. Current rates can be found in the CDC handbook. Programs that publish at a 3, 4 or 5 Star will also **not have the family contribution deducted.**

### **Assessment**

- Assessment is completed using the School-Age Program Quality Assessment Tool with Extended Scales. The tool is used at the program by trained valid and reliable assessors. All programs will receive the results, if they chose to participate in Assessment. Programs that validate at a 4 or 5 star must have the Assessment and achieve a minimum score to have a published rating of a 4 or 5 star.

### **Free Program Profile**

- This is a place that families, and anyone else who wants to, can come and search to see all of the current licensed programs in Michigan. Search results default in order from highest to lowest rating. Families can search in lots of different ways so let's take a look.
- To find childcare, families can visit [GreatStarttoQuality.org](http://GreatStarttoQuality.org) and click the find childcare and preschool button. This will link you into the portal where the profiles for each of the programs are posted. When families come in they can put in different requirements, and then provide more information for what they're looking for. As you can see, programs are able to put in lots of information.

Some of this information is pulled directly from licensing. Others, programs upload themselves. This program for instance, has chosen to upload photos. They've also provided a message to families. If you click more information on the lower right-hand corner you can see that program's have the opportunity to put in lots of different information that is useful to families. Your program can decide how you would like to update this profile and what information you would like to provide for families that are looking for care.

Great Start to Quality ratings determine the reimbursement rate that families receive through the Child development Care, child care subsidy program. Families that use higher rated programs will see a higher reimbursement rate and will cover more of the cost of care. And in some cases, families may not need to pay out of pocket at all. For families looking for care, Great Start to Quality as I showed you, provides information about how Michigan defines quality in afterschool and other out-of-school time programs and information about how programs are meeting those standards.

The next video in the orientation series will walk you through the self-assessment process. If you need any assistance during this process you can email [outofschooltime@ecic4kids.org](mailto:outofschooltime@ecic4kids.org) or call your resource center using the number 1-877-614-7328, on the slide".

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