



# G S Q

**Great Start to Quality is Launching a Focused Quality Recognition and Improvement System.**

**Introducing A Great Start To Quality Process For Continuous Improvement.**

- ▶ After collaborating with providers and families using Great Start to Quality, we are introducing a new process based on what matters most to them: improving quality in child care settings so children can learn and thrive.





## What Is Great Start to Quality?



**Great Start to Quality assesses the quality of early childhood programs and providers in Michigan. GSQ is Michigan's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The current model supports licensed child care, preschool, and Out-of-School Time programs with rating and quality improvement. The Program Quality Indicators are standards used to measure the quality of a program in specific key areas. GSQ strives to help families make informed decisions about child care, and support child care programs as they improve their quality and provide the best care possible for children.**

### Why Is GSQ Being Improved?

The current focus on ratings leaves providers feeling as though they are "checking the box" in order to achieve a higher rating, rather than focusing as much as they could on true quality improvements. Over the years providers have shared how the connection between star ratings and other rating systems (Yelp, Google, etc.) gives families an inaccurate context for measuring program quality. We also received feedback regarding the small selection of approved curriculum, assessment, and screening tools for home-based child care and infants and toddlers. Our research-based methods and standards will better inform providers and families on how to improve quality overall.

## GSQ Is Updating The System To Enhance Quality and Equity

Based on feedback and guidance from families and communities, and guidance from content experts, providers, and the GSQ Advisory Committee, we are improving the Great Start to Quality system into a Continuous Quality Improvement Process.

### Quality Enhancements

- ▶ Updates to quality indicators
- ▶ Broader list of curriculum
- ▶ Supports a wider range of program philosophies
- ▶ Focus on provider guided reflection to drive the change and develop the plan
- ▶ All licensed providers in good standing with licensing are part of GSQ
- ▶ New on-site evaluation through CLASS / ERS
- ▶ Star ratings will be replaced by quality levels - all program types follow the same process

### Inequity Adjustments

- ▶ Changing the On-Site Observation tools to be more supportive of all program types
- ▶ Addressing language and reading level based on provider's feedback
- ▶ Providing translation and interpretation throughout the process
- ▶ Simplifying system processes
- ▶ Quality Indicators are not scored

The new model focuses on quality improvement – a continuous process or journey. To provide the best care we must use the latest research, continuing to learn, and enhance to best serve our children and families.



# IMPROVE

## Success Starts With Enhanced Resources & Coaching Support For Staff And Providers

GSQ is committed to quality improvement for all – continuing to offer support and coaching to staff and providers. Great Start to Quality offers local Resource Centers in each region. These Resource Centers and program coaches are a key part of the Great Start to Quality system that guide and support providers with all levels of their professional development and continuous improvement plans.

### What Has Changed In The New Process?

Great Start to Quality will be transitioning to a Quality Recognition and Improvement System - Which has Quality Levels instead of ratings and stars. The new model has more choices and flexibility for programs to improve.

### Language Changes

In the revised Great Start to Quality process, providers will notice changes to language that is currently used.

#### ▶ CURRENT LANGUAGE ◀

- Quality Rating & Improvement System
- Action Item
- Self-Assessment Survey
- Star Rating
- On-Site Assessment
- Quality Improvement Consultant

#### ▶ REVISED LANGUAGE ◀

- Quality Recognition & Improvement System
- Goals
- Self-Reflection
- Quality Level
- On-Site Observation
- Quality Improvement Coach

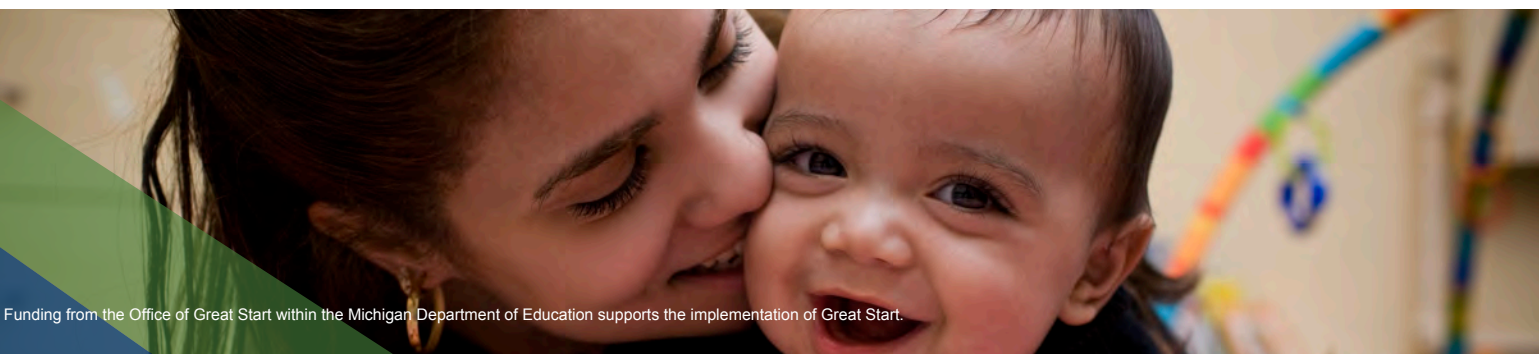
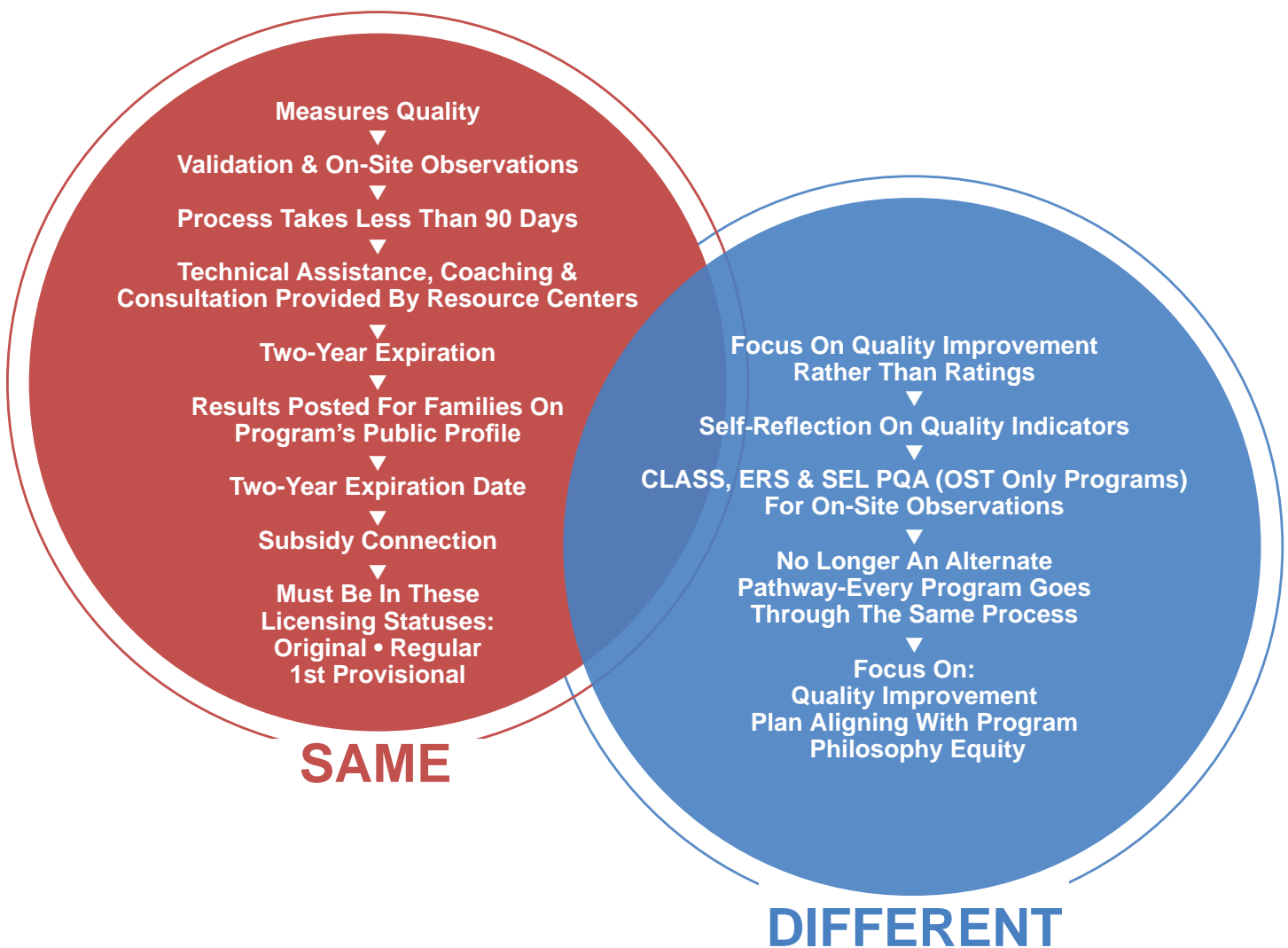
- ✓ Quality Rating and Improvement System will be transitioning to a **Quality Recognition and Improvement System**, this change is being implemented to **reflect the work** programs complete throughout the process of receiving a Quality Level.
- ✓ In the current Quality Improvement Plan the term Action Item is used. In the revised **Great Start to Quality process**, we will be referring to Action Items as **goals**.
- ✓ The Self-Assessment Survey program's currently complete for validation will now be called **Self-Reflection**, this change is being made as the program should be reflecting on its current program practices to identify areas for improvement.
- ✓ The current On-Site Assessment process will be referred to as **On-Site Observation** to align with the change in the tools being used in the revised Great Start to Quality process.
- ✓ Providers are currently supported by Quality Improvement Consultants. In the revised Great Start to Quality process, their title will be changing to **Quality Improvement Coach**.

## On-Site Observation - More Choices

Great Start to Quality will soon offer three different On-Site Observation tools. All options align with national trends and are used widely to assess program quality. Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) and Environment Rating Scales (ERS) will be choices for programs providers with infants, toddlers and preschoolers (Center-based programs with Great Start Readiness Programs (GSRP) will only use CLASS). They both support a variety of curricula and program philosophies. The third On-Site Observation tool, Social Emotional Learning Program Quality Assessment (SEL PQA), will be used for Out-of-School Time (OST) only classrooms and programs.

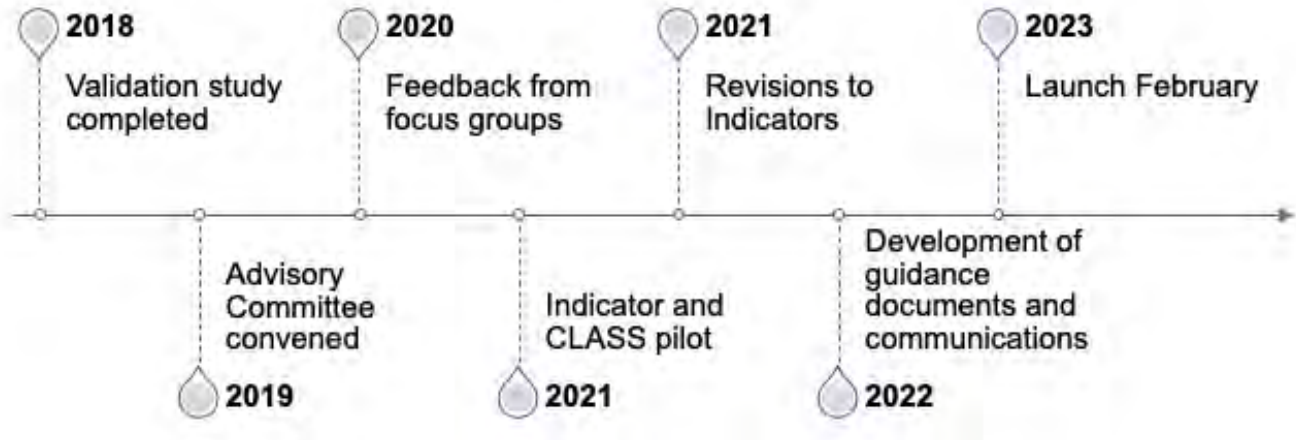
## What Has Remained Similar To The Old System?

Programs who wish to publish at the Demonstrating Quality Level will continue to complete a Validation and On-Site Observation that will be completed within 90 days from Self-Reflection submission. Local Resource Centers will be available for technical assistance, coaching, and consultation to interested programs and providers. All published quality levels will be valid for two years and results will be posted for families on the program's public profile. Programs that participate must be in good standing with licensing and have a licensing status of Original, Regular, or 1st Provisional. Programs that have a published rating will still be eligible for increased subsidy reimbursement rates, although these rates have not yet been determined.



# What Are The Anticipated Timelines For Great Start To Quality Revisions?

The Michigan Department of Education - Office of Great Start is set to launch in February 2023.



## What's Next?

As the system is evolving so will the brand. A rebranding effort is currently underway which will provide a new look and feel to our logo, website, and communications.

## How To Prepare

- Learn more about Environment Rating Scales at <https://ers.fpg.unc.edu/environment-rating-scales>
- Access CLASS training through **MiRegistry**
- Engage in professional development at **Teachstone.com**
- Update your Organization Profile in **MiRegistry**

## Stay Updated

Follow Great Start to Quality on Facebook and sign-up for the Star Gazette on the website. Visit [greatstarttoquality.org/whats-next](https://greatstarttoquality.org/whats-next) to stay updated as the system evolves.

