



GREAT  
START TO  
**Quality**

Supporting Excellence in Early Education



LAUNCHING  
**2.1.2023**

# GSQ is Launching an Enhanced Quality Recognition and Improvement System

INTRODUCING THE



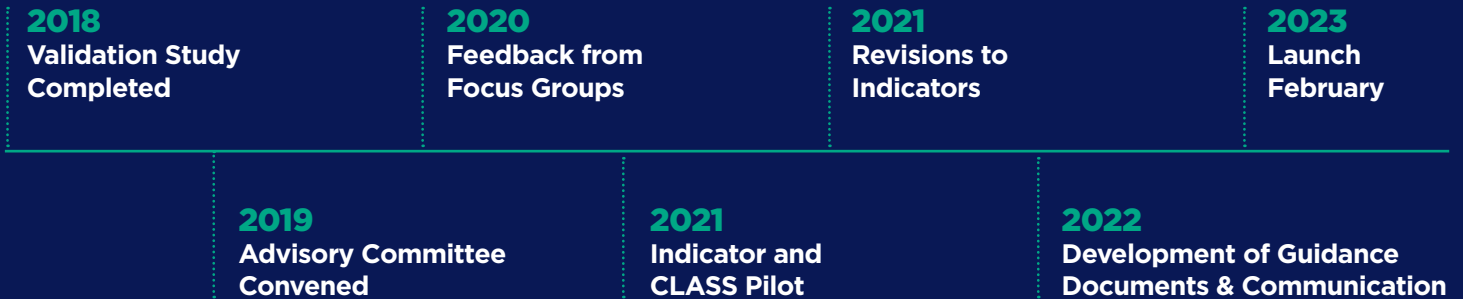
## Process for Continuous Improvement

After collaborating with providers and families using Great Start to Quality (GSQ), 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 are the Anticipated Timelines for Great Start to Quality Revisions?

The Michigan Department of Education - Office of Great Start will launch the revised process on February 1, 2023.



## What's Next?

The reimagined Great Start to Quality brand is rolling out to partners and families. From our new Mission, Vision and Values, to our new logo, colors and process, we are excited to move forward into the future.

We will be reaching out to Michigan families with a campaign to communicate the changes, introduce them to GSQ, and help them to understand the benefits we provide to help them find the best, high quality providers to help their children thrive.

**Continuous  
Quality  
Recognition &  
Improvement  
System**



## Steps to Prepare

- Stay Connected – visit our website, sign-up for our newsletter, follow GSQ and Resource Centers on Facebook.
- Set up the program's organization profile in MiRegistry
- Program staff set up membership through MiRegistry
- Connect with Resource Centers
- Check MiRegistry for trainings
- Review new Quality Indicators [greatstarttoquality.org/reflecting-on-quality](https://greatstarttoquality.org/reflecting-on-quality)
- Compile documents
- Register for CLASS, ERS, SEL PQA Training

## In Conclusion, 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 the beginning of the validation process.

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 2 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.



### **SAME**

- Measures quality
- Validation and On-Site Observations
- Process takes less than 90 days
- Technical assistance, coaching, and consultation provided by Resource Centers
- Results posted for families on program's public profile
- Two-year expiration date
- Subsidy connection
- Must be in these licensing statuses: Original, Regular, or 1st Provisional

### **DIFFERENT**

- Focus on quality improvement rather than ratings
- Self-Reflection on Quality Indicators
- CLASS, ERS and SEL PQA (OST Only Programs) for On-Site Observations
- Every program goes through the same process
- Quality Improvement Plan aligning with program philosophy

Our new brand Mission, Vision, and Values serve as the foundation for Great Start to Quality as we move forward into the future. Our Mission Statement represents who we are and why we exist. Our Vision represents where we want to be in the future. Our Values represent the guiding beliefs that drive our brand's internal culture and external connections on a daily basis.

## Mission

We focus on high-quality early learning experiences that build the foundation for skills children need to thrive in school and in life.

To accomplish this, we offer support to strengthen Michigan's providers of early care and education so they can continuously improve the services and support they provide young children, their families, and the community.

## Vision

All families in Michigan have access to safe, high-quality early learning experiences that give children a strong foundation to thrive and meet their needs as they grow and learn.



## Values

### EQUITY

We believe in equitable access to early care and education for all families in Michigan. We work with state and community partners to increase the number of programs across the state and encourage providers to continually increase their quality to support both families and communities.

### QUALITY

We believe that the continuous quality improvement of early care and education programs, through professional development and reflection on program practices, supports providers in delivering high-quality care that meets families' needs and helps children thrive.

### EMPOWER

We empower families to be advocates for their children and understand the benefits of high-quality early care and education. We empower providers to improve quality by building strong, trusting relationships and providing information, resources and other supports to improve quality.

### COMMITTED

We are passionately committed to elevating the early care and education professions and supporting the workforce through professional development and education supports which increases the quality of care Michigan's children receive.

## 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 (OST) Only programs with rating and quality improvement.

The 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 input and guidance from content experts, provider participants, feedback from families and communities, and the stakeholder Advisory Committee we are improving the Great Start to Quality system into a Continuous Quality Improvement Process.



## 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 with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Center-based programs with Great Start Readiness Programs and Head Start 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.



Program Type & Ages Served	CLASS	ERS	SEL PQA
Home-Based Care - Serving Ages 0-12	X	X	
Home-Based Care - Serving Ages 5-12			X
Home-Based Care - With Early Head Start	X	X	
Child Care Center - Serving Ages 0-12	X	X	X
Child Care Center - Serving Ages 5-12			X
Child Care Center - With GSRP or Head Start Classroom(s)	X		



### Reflecting On Quality

A new set of quality indicators has been established. Programs who meet this level of quality must use the revised Quality Indicators in the Self-Reflection to highlight program strengths and identify goals for continued improvement.

### Enhancing Quality

Programs who meet this level of quality must complete at least one (1) goal in the Quality Improvement plan with a due date. The goal can be based on Self-Reflection, On-Site Observation, or might be unrelated to GSQ.

### Enhancing Quality-Validated

Programs who meet this level of quality must complete at least one (1) goal, submit the Self-Reflection, and complete the Validation process. Programs may be waiting to complete an On-Site Observation.

### Demonstrating Quality

Programs who meet this level of quality must complete Validation, and meet threshold scores for the On-Site Observation.





## Quality Improvements

- Updates to Quality Indicators
- Broader list of curriculum
- Better support for various 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 Observation tool choices: CLASS®, ERS, and SEL PQA
- Stars will be replaced by levels and every program follows 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 providers' feedback
- Providing translation and interpretation throughout the rating process
- Simplifying system processes
- Quality Indicators are not scored



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

# 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 Quality Improvement Staff are a key part of the Great Start to Quality system that guide and support providers with all levels of their professional learning and continuous improvement plans.



## What Has Changed In The New Process?

Great Start to Quality will be transitioning to a Quality Recognition and Improvement process – which has Quality Levels instead of star ratings. The revised model has more choices and flexibility for programs to improve.

## Language Changes

In the revised Great Start to Quality process, programs 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 reflect on 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.
- Programs are currently supported by Quality Improvement Consultants. In the revised Great Start to Quality process, their title will be changing to **Quality Improvement Coach**.



[greatstarttoquality.org](http://greatstarttoquality.org)