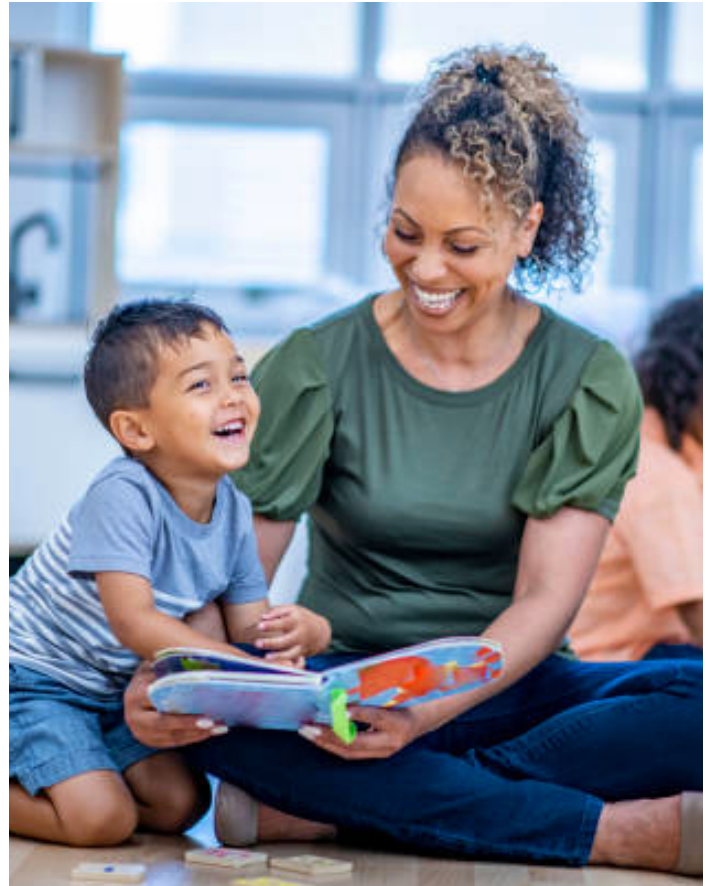


Introduction

The goal of Great Start to Quality (GSQ) is to improve quality in early care and education and impact children's futures for the better. Our vision is to support excellence in early care and education at all levels, and ensure that all Michigan children thrive!

Since launching Great Start to Quality in 2011, we've learned a lot about how to define and assess quality, and how to help child care professionals improve services for children. So thanks to your feedback and guidance from content experts, we've made improvements.

On February 1, 2023 Great Start to Quality is strengthening the process to better support Michigan's early childhood educators, communities and families. We're excited to share the new model. And we will do everything we can to ensure a smooth rollout for everyone.



The new focus is on supporting continuous improvement. Star ratings will now become Quality Levels. There will be revised and simplified Quality Indicators (no longer scored), more approved curricula, and we will continue to provide translation and interpretation services. Plus, three new On-Site Observation tools that providers can choose from, and more.

Again, we are here to support you. We will do everything we can to provide clear, consistent communication to help you prepare and understand how the system is changing. Please review the FAQs below for more information on the improved system and process.



Q Why is the process being updated and who provided feedback to shape the process?

Great Start to Quality is improving its process to better recognize and support program quality so more children thrive.

The quality improvement process will now support all programs that are licensed and in good standing, including home-based and center-based programs, Great Start Readiness Program and Head Start, Out-of-School-Time only programs, and schoolage care in programs serving children ages 0-12 years.

We are working to improve the design of the system so that all program types and philosophies can feel represented, have more choice, and all programs have an opportunity and supports to reflect on and improve the early care and education they offer.

Q When will the quality improvement process launch?

The process will launch on February 1, 2023. Providers will be able to access resources and trainings. Contact your local [Great Start to Quality Resource Center](#) to learn more about upcoming trainings.

Q Who is eligible to participate in Great Start to Quality?

All programs that are licensed with child care licensing and that are in good standing with licensing will be part of Great Start to Quality starting February 1, 2023

Q I am a licensed provider but do not have a Star rating currently. In the quality improvement process, will I be participating in Great Start to Quality?

Yes. In the revised process all licensed providers will be published at the first quality level - [Maintaining Health & Safety](#) and can work to achieve other Quality Levels as they choose.

Q I serve schoolagers. Will I have an On-Site Observation in that classroom?

Yes. If a program serves schoolagers, they will have indicators in the Self-Reflection focused on schoolagers. The On-Site Observation will also include the schoolage classroom or group. [Review the chart of provider types and ages served to learn more.](#)

Q If my program already has a Star rating, will I have to begin the quality improvement process when the new system launches? How do I know when I should apply?

Providers whose star rating expires between September 2022-April 2023, are recommended to complete a rating within the current system. This will ensure ratings do not expire and funding does not lapse. Ratings will transition to a Quality Level and providers will maintain their subsidy.

Starting February 1, 2023 programs can apply to participate in the quality improvement process whenever they desire. To find out more, review the [Transition Timeline document](#).



Q What is the process for earning a Star rating prior to February 2023?

Programs can learn more about the timeline and process in the [Transition Timeline document](#).

Q What are the key changes that are being made to the process?

Some of the key changes include:

- Star ratings are going away and are being replaced by Quality Levels
- A broader list of approved curricula has been added, but using an approved curriculum is not required
- Updates and revisions to Quality Indicators to simplify language and focus on equity
- A new focus on providers reflecting on quality and setting goals to support continuous improvement
- New On-Site Observation tools: CLASS, Environment Rating and Scales (ERS), and Social and Emotional Learning Program Quality Assessment (SEL PQA) used to achieve Demonstrating Quality

Q How can I prepare for the new process to launch?

There are several ways that you can begin to prepare:

- Stay connected to the Great Start to Quality by visiting the [Quality Improvement Process](#) webpage
- Access professional development about the new process
- Register for trainings on CLASS, ERS, and SEL PQA
- Update your [MiRegistry Organization Profile](#)
- [Review Quality Indicators](#)

Q Are there professional development opportunities available to help me prepare for the new quality improvement process?

Yes. Professional development opportunities will be available. Contact your local Great Start to Quality [Resource Center](#) to learn more about future offerings.

Q Is there a way that I can receive information about updates as decisions are being made?

Yes. As decisions are being made, the Michigan Department of Education - Office of Great Start (MDE) will continue to share information in the Quality Improvement Process section of the Great Start to Quality website.

You can also sign-up to receive updates through the [newsletter](#), follow Great Start to Quality on Facebook, and stay connected with your [local Resource Center](#).

Q Will I still be able to receive subsidy reimbursement as a participant?

Yes. Subsidy will continue to be a part of Great Start to Quality participation.



Q How should I choose which On-Site Observation Tool to use?

The three On-Site Observation Tools each have a slightly different focus. GSRP and Head Start Programs are required to use the CLASS tool. Schoolage programs will be using the SEL PQA that measures schoolage development.

The CLASS tool focuses on adult-child interactions and the ERS tool focuses on the learning environment. Programs can learn more about each of the tools on the [Great Start to Quality website](#).

[Resource Center staff](#) will also be able to help providers discuss which tool is the best fit.

Q If I have infants, toddlers, and schoolage children, do I need to do more than one On-Site Observation?

It depends on the program type, structure, and number of classrooms. Learn more by visiting the [Great Start to Quality On-Site Observation webpage](#) and by talking with your [local Resource Center](#).

Q When will we learn about the conversion of stars to levels?

Information about the conversion can be found on the Quality Improvement Process page on the website.

Q When will we be able to see the end process/what our families see?

The updated system is currently being built. Once it is complete, Resource Centers will provide training on it.

Q Will programs have something that they can show families indicating their Quality Level?

Yes. As part of the rebranding effort we are creating marketing materials that providers will be able to use to show their level. A program's quality level will appear on the program's profile in Great Start to Quality when families search for care.

QUICK LINKS

- [Great Start to Quality Website](#)
- [Great Start to Quality Resource Center](#)
- [Maintaining Health & Safety](#)
- [Chart of provider types and ages served](#)
- [Transition Timeline document](#)
- [Quality Improvement Process](#)
- [MiRegistry Organization Profile](#)
- [Review Indicators](#)
- [Subscribe to Newsletter](#)
- [Great Start to Quality On-Site Observation webpage](#)