

## Section 1 - Required Training

An on-site Program Administrator and/or teaching staff must complete the following trainings (as specified below) before applying for the Silver Circle of Quality. A Program Administrator may be any person listed in Section 4 of the main application as a Director, Assistant Director, or Director/Teacher. Completion of trainings will be verified by the Gateways Registry.

1. **Has an on-site Program Administrator completed the ExceleRate Illinois Orientation ?**  YES  NO
  
2. **Has the on-site program administrator and at least 50% of teaching staff completed ExceleRate approved ERS training?**  YES  NO  
*This could include Introduction to ERS (2007-June 2025) or How ERS Works (2025)*
  - 2a. *Staff should complete training on the Scale used within their classroom (ITERS-3, ECERS-3 or SACERS-U).*
  
3. **Has at least 50% of teaching staff completed an ExceleRate-approved training on aligned curriculum?(as specified under 1B)**  YES  NO
  
4. **Has and on-site Program Administrator and at least 50% of teaching staff completed an ExceleRate-approved training on inclusion of children with disabilities or developmental delays?**  YES  NO
  
5. **Has an on-site Program Administrator completed the Getting Ready for the Program Administration Scale (PAS) 2nd Edition training?**  YES  NO

## Section 2 - Standards and Evidence

For each question below, check either 'Yes' or 'No' to indicate whether your program meets the standard as listed.

If answering 'Yes', additional information may be required. Completion of required trainings and credentials will be verified by the Gateways Registry.

### 1A (LEARNING ENVIRONMENT) AND 1C (INSTRUCTIONAL QUALITY)

1. In preparation for on-site assessment, the program has completed classroom self-assessment using the applicable ERS for the ages in care.  YES  NO

*Please submit the Assessment Profile Sheet(s) completed within the last 6 months—ITERS-3, ECERS-3, SACERS-U.*

Please note:

ITERS-3 is used to assess classrooms with children birth to 36 months at time of assessment.

ECERS-3 is used to assess classrooms with children 36 months to 5 years old at time of assessment.

SACERS-U is used to assess classrooms with children 5 years of age and older.

*\*If a program has a combined classroom of 2 and 3 year old children, the ITERS-3 will be used to assess classrooms when 75% of the children are under 36 months of age at the time of assessment.*

*The ECERS-3 will be used if 75% of the children are 36 months or older at the time of assessment.*

### 1B – CURRICULUM

2. Do you utilize a curriculum in your program that is aligned with the Illinois Early Learning Guidelines/Standards?  YES  NO

2a. If Yes, what is the name of the curriculum? \_\_\_\_\_

- If No, include a narrative description of how the curriculum is aligned with the Illinois Early Learning Guidelines/Standards.

## 1D – CHILD SCREENING

(NOTE: DOCUMENTATION FOR THIS STANDARD WILL BE VERIFIED ON SITE)

\* For credit to be given for 1D, assessor is looking for all three points in the Standard to be addressed in program policy. If screenings are conducted by CFC or other entity, policy must address how all three points of the Standard are implemented.

**3. Does your program conduct screenings of all children (birth - 5) at least annually?**  YES  NO

**3a.** *The program’s screening policy and practices include that all parents are provided screening results?*  YES  NO

**3b.** *The program’s screening policy and practices include that all parents are provided information on where to go for additional evaluation and services?*  YES  NO

## 1E – CHILD ASSESSMENT

**4. Does your program use an assessment tool that is aligned with the Illinois Early Learning Standards?**  YES  NO

**4a.** If Yes, what is the assessment tool? \_\_\_\_\_

**4b.** If No, what include a narrative description of how the assessment tool is aligned with the Illinois Early Learning Standards.

## 1F – INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES OR DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS

**5. Does your program have policies and procedures that support inclusion of children with disabilities or developmental delays?**  YES  NO

If Yes, include a copy of your program’s written policies related to inclusion.

## 2A – FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

(NOTE: DOCUMENTATION FOR THIS STANDARD WILL BE VERIFIED ON-SITE)

\* For credit to be given for 2A, assessor is looking for:

1. documentation that 5 family supports are offered (see PAS-2nd edition, page 42 for examples);
2. a policy in the parent/program handbook that the program offers at least 2 formal conferences for all families annually.
3. documentation showing that conferences have been offered at least twice in the past year (ie. completed & dated sign-up sheets, newsletter/email blast to parents announcing conference sign-up, etc).

6. Does your program offer at least five family supports?  YES  NO

7. Does your program have policy and practices in place to offer at least two parent-staff conferences per year to all families?  YES  NO

7a. Did your program offer at least two parent-staff conferences to all families in the past year?  YES  NO

2B – TRANSITIONS

8. Does your program implement policies and practices to provide general information about transitions and engage parents in discussions and/or activities addressing child and family transitions?  YES  NO

If Yes, include transition policy and procedures program has implemented.

3A – PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

9. Has your program completed a PAS 2nd Edition self-assessment, in coordination with CCR&R specialist?  YES  NO

If Yes, include a copy of the PAS 2nd Edition Profile sheet (must be completed within the last 6 months).

10. Please select the three Program Administration Scale (PAS) subscales below that you wish to be verified on.

- CENTER OPERATIONS
- FISCAL MANAGEMENT
- HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
- MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
- PERSONNEL COST AND ALLOCATION
- PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION
- TECHNOLOGY

IDCFS LICENSE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

### 3C – CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

**11. Does your program have a recent signed Consultation Agreement with CCR&R specialist?**  YES  NO

If Yes, include a copy of the recent signed Consultation Agreement.

**12. In coordination with CCR&R specialist, has your program completed a Continuous Quality Improvement Plan using self-assessment results?**  YES  NO

If Yes, please enclose a copy of the program’s Continuous Quality Improvement Plan. (At a minimum, CQIP must address as needed, 1A, 1C, and 3A)

### 4A/4B – DIRECTOR AND STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

**13. Director holds Illinois Director Credential 1 or higher.**  YES  NO

**14. 30% of Teaching staff have a minimum of a Gateways ECE Credential Level 3.**  YES  NO

**15. 30% of Teaching staff in infant-toddler classrooms have a Gateways Infant Toddler Credential Level 2.**  YES  NO

Administrator and Teaching staff must hold the applicable Gateways Credential, or have a pending application on file. If not meeting the applicable Credential, the program administrator/staff may write a CQIP to outline goals, action steps, specific coursework/training the individual can accomplish over the year to work towards the applicable Credential. The program administrator/staff should use the letter each individual received from the Credential Department to guide CQIP development in what coursework/training is needed. **Updated CQIP of accomplishments will be required at annual report and progress must be shown towards Standards 4A and 4B Credential attainment.**

Please refer to the ExceleRate/Credentials FAQ for additional details <https://www.excelerateillinoisproviders.com/docman/resources/61-09-26-14-excelerate-credential-faq/file>

4C – STAFF DEVELOPMENT

16. Do all classroom teaching staff in your program have written individualized professional development plans?  YES  NO

17. Do all classroom teaching staff in your program complete at least 20 hours of professional development per year?  YES  NO

If Yes, please enclose documentation of policy and procedures for teaching staff to attain 20 hours of professional development, including how program tracks each teacher’s hours.

PROGRAM PORTFOLIO

As part of the Silver verification process, a state-approved assessor(s) will be on-site at your program to conduct classroom assessment/teacher interview, as well as a PAS assessment/director interview. As part of PAS assessment, documentation review based on PAS subscales chosen will occur. Please refer to the Standards Overview for Licensed Child Care Centers and the Getting Ready for the Silver Circle of Quality checklist.

18. Has your program completed an organized portfolio of documentation for on-site review, including PAS documentation?  YES  NO

If No, your program will not meet verification requirements. Please use the *Getting Ready for the Silver Circle of Quality checklist* to review the Standards that will be reviewed on-site.

19. Have you worked with your IDCFS licensing representative to clear all pending and substantiated violations (from the last 12 months)?  YES  NO

To check if your program has violations please visit <https://sunshine.dcf.illinois.gov/>