Quality Rated Informational Webinar
2024 Updates
October 12, 2023

QR Portfolio General Questions

Q: How will the submission window for cohorts be changing?

A: The portfolio submission window will open at midnight on the first day of the window and **will close at Noon on the last day of the submission window to allow for any technical support that might be needed to complete the submission.**

QR Portfolio Standard 3: Family Engagement

Q: Will the number of uploads allowed for pieces of evidence to support family engagement and input be increased?

A: The number of evidence uploads allowed will not be changing from the current allowable 5 pieces.

Q: Will home visits now be counted as family conferences?

A: Yes. Please be sure to include sufficient evidence to support the fact that home visits occur at least 2x per year. This could be a document used during the visits to record discussions with the family. Other documentation can be presented but it does need to be clear that the home visit was conducted with the family.

Q: For 3.3.3 Family Engagement, a narrative alone is not enough anymore?

A: Correct. QR will be looking for more than a narrative of encouraging family engagement. Physical evidence such as newsletters, flyers, pictures of activities, such as a parent day, etc., should clearly demonstrate families are connected to the program's goal of engaging them in their child's overall experience with the program.

QR Portfolio Standard 4: Lesson Plans

Q: For Family Child Care Learning Homes, can 1 lesson plan suffice when you have multiple ages?

A. Yes, one lesson plan that lists all identified ages served in the program would be acceptable for a family provider.

Q: We previously understood that adaptations listed on lesson plans had to be individualized for specific children as identified by a child's initials. Will adaptations that alter an activity for multiple children be accepted?

A: Yes, any adaptation that alters an activity to meet the varying needs of a child or multiple children will be accepted on lesson plans as long as it is clearly identified as an adaptation.

Q: If a program uses child initials to identify specific adaptations within their lesson plans, will this still be accepted?

A: Yes, child initials to identify adaptations will still be accepted. What is more important is that the adaptation be related to the learning activity listed.

Q: When using specific lesson plan templates, how should adaptations be labeled?

A: When creating lesson plans, adaptations may be indicated anywhere on the lesson plan as long as it is evident that the notation is meant as an adaptation.

Q: When there are 2 different ages of children in one classroom is it acceptable to create one lesson plan that includes both age groups, or should two separate lesson plans be uploaded?

A: Multiple ages are accepted on a lesson plan if those age groups are in the same classroom, as long as they are identified on the plan and all other requirements (GELDS codes, adaptations) are listed for the appropriate age groups, as well.

QR ERS Observations

Q: If I have 2 ECERS classrooms, will both classrooms be observed?

A: QR is returning to assessing 1/3 of ECERS classrooms, so in this case, only 1 observation would be needed.

Q: If I have a 3-year-old classroom, a 4-year-old classroom, and a GA Pre-K room, how many ECERS observations will I receive?

A: QR is returning to assessing 1/3 of ECERS classrooms, so in this case, 1/3 of 3 ECERS-aged classrooms will result in 1 observation being conducted.

Q: We have 5 ECERS classrooms with 3 of those being GA Pre-K, how many ECERS observations would we receive?

A: Any classroom with children 36-60 months will be counted in the total number of ECERS classrooms to determine the number of ECERS observations. For this scenario, 1/3 of 5 would result in 1 ECERS observation being conducted.

Q: If a program has an infant room, a toddler room and a 2-year-old room, will it only be the infant room for all the programs with less than 6 ITERS room?

A: In this scenario, based on the new random selection of ITERS classrooms to be assessed, the program would have 1 observation in the infant classroom and 1 observation would be conducted in either the toddler room or the 2-year-old room, so 2 observations would be completed.

Q: If my program has an infant/toddler combined classroom, how many observations would that be?

A: If you have a program with infants and toddlers combined and no other ITERS classrooms, your program will receive 1 ITERS observation.

Q: Will all GA Pre-K classrooms be observed?

A: No. The computer will randomly select the number of ECERS observations based on all rooms that serve children 36-60 months. GA Pre-K classrooms will be included in this combined number.

Q: Does the 1 child/1 month rule still apply for classrooms?

A: Yes, this rule still applies for ITERS and ECERS classrooms per ERS observation guidelines.

Q: So instead of just one ITERS and one ECERS being observed, it will now be one infant room, one toddler room, and one ECERS classroom?

A: QR is returning to assessing 1/3 of each type of classroom and/or including at least one infant classroom in all observations. This graph clarifies the number of classrooms that will have observations based on the number and types of classrooms in the program:

Examples of Number of Rooms Observed

EXAMPLE 1

Room	Age Group	ERS Scale	Selected for Observation	Total Rooms Assessed
1	Infant	ITERS	Yes	**2 ITERS**
2	Ones	ITERS	1 of these rooms	
3	Twos	ITERS		
4	Threes	ECERS	1 of these rooms	**1 ECERS**
5	Fours	ECERS		

EXAMPLE 2

Room	Age Group	ERS Scale	Selected for Observation	Total Rooms Assessed
1	Ones	ITERS	1 of these rooms	**1 ITERS**
2	Ones	ITERS		
3	Twos	ITERS		
4	Threes	ECERS	1 of these rooms	**1 ECERS**
5	Fours	ECERS		

EXAMPLE 3

Room	Age Group	ERS Scale	Selected for Observation	Total Rooms Assessed
1	Infant	ITERS	1 of these rooms	**2 ITERS**
2	Infant	ITERS		
3	Ones	ITERS	1 of these rooms	
4	Ones	ITERS		
5	Twos	ITERS		
6	Threes	ECERS	1 of these rooms	**1 ECERS**
7	Fours	ECERS		

EXAMPLE 4

Room	Age Group	ERS Scale	Selected for Observation	Total Rooms Assessed
1	Infant	ITERS	1 of these rooms	**2 ITERS**
2	Infant	ITERS		
3	Ones	ITERS	1 of these rooms	
4	Ones	ITERS		
5	Twos	ITERS		
6	Twos	ITERS		
7	Fours	ECERS	1 of these rooms	**1 ECERS**
8	GA Pre-K	ECERS		

Q: Will any of these changes address the group sizing for FCCLHs? We do not have small or large groups; we have just one group.

A: Observations conducted using the FCCERS-3 will still expect 1 assessment for the program. However, if the FCCLH operates 2 separate classrooms for infants/toddlers and preschoolers on 2 separate schedules throughout the day, then 1 classroom will be randomly selected, and the assessor will follow that classroom throughout the 3-hr observation.

Q: Will all my observations occur on the same day?

A: It depends on the assessment team assigned to your program and where your program is located. We make every attempt to conduct all observations in one day, but this is not always feasible due to the volume of observations needed during the cohort. When observations need to be scheduled on different days, QR makes every effort to conduct those observations within 10 business days of each other. However, if unforeseen circumstances occur (illness, facility closure due to illness, etc.), the observations may be rescheduled, and a new 30-day notice be issued after contacting the program.

Q: What number of children should be enrolled for Family Childcare to be observed?

A: To be eligible to receive an assessment, two children under the age of 13 years old should be enrolled at least 15 hours per week between the hours of 6 am-6 pm. However, on the day of the assessment, programs are still eligible to receive an observation if 1 child enrolled in the program is present.

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Q: What number of children should be enrolled for a CCLC to be observed?

A: To be eligible to receive an assessment, classrooms serving preschool children 36-60 months must have a minimum enrollment of at least 2 children. On the day of the assessment, at least 2 of the children enrolled must be present for an ECERS observation to occur.
Classrooms serving infants and toddlers 0-35 months must have an enrollment of 2 children. On the day of the assessment, an ITERS observation can be conducted with 1 child present.

Q: Will any of these changes address the group sizing for FCCLHs? We do not have small or large groups; we have just one group.

A: Observations conducted using the FCCERS-3 will still expect 1 assessment for the program. However, if the FCCLH operates 2 separate classrooms for infants/toddlers and preschoolers on 2 separate schedules throughout the day, then 1 classroom will be randomly selected, and the assessor will follow that classroom throughout the 3-hr observation.

QR Process Questions

Q: If my expiration date is 5.3.2024 and I choose Cohort 3 2024, as long as I submit my portfolio by my submission date, I will not lose my current rating?

A: Correct. Your rating will remain in effect if a cohort selection has been made before your expiration date and your portfolio is submitted during the corresponding submission window for the cohort selected.

Q: I selected the incorrect cohort. My rating expires before the cohort I selected. Should I change my cohort?

A: Once a cohort has been selected, it cannot be changed. However, if you have selected a cohort for 2024, your rating will not expire as long as you submit your portfolio during the cohort portfolio submission window. Ratings will only expire when a cohort is not selected in the year of your expiration date and/or you fail to submit your portfolio for the cohort selected.

Q: How do the center closure dates apply to Head Start programs that have to select a Cohort where they are closed for more than 15 days of the Cohort?

A: Our assessors make every attempt to accommodate all blackout dates and closure dates. We often prioritize assessing Head start centers based upon their closure dates.

Q: Ratings are still good for 3 years, but each year by their anniversary date, can a program opt to go through the process again when a cohort has a slot open?

A: Yes, any program that wishes to be rerated may choose from any remaining open cohort slots for 2024.

Q: I am concerned about preparing for my portfolio submission and my observation, will my TA be able to help me?

A: Yes! You can request technical assistance by clicking the Request Technical Assistance link on the right side of the My Facility section of the Home page of your QR Account or you can reach out to your local Childcare Resource & Referral Agency for further support. Here is a link to determine which office would best serve your area: https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/CCRRSystem.aspx

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Q: Is it possible for an FCCLH to earn 3-stars? **A:** Yes! There are many 3-star Family Child Care Learning Homes across the state. Please reach out to your local Child Care Resource & Referral Agency for support as you prepare for your QR Observation. See the link above.
Q: Will centers be able to receive 3 stars? **A:** Yes, now that QR is in the field conducting on-site observations, all programs have the opportunity to receive up to 3 stars depending on the outcome of their portfolio scoring and their overall ERS observation average scores.
Q: Centers that fail to score enough overall points to receive a rating have the option to apply for reassessment? **A:** Yes, any program that wishes to be rerated may choose from any remaining open cohort slots for 2024.
Q: Are there any inclusion programs offered by DECAL (Bright From the Start) that can be utilized prior to an observation? **A:** DECAL offers supports for inclusion through a team of regionally based Specialists. To contact the Inclusion and Behavior Support Helpline, please call 1-833-354-4357 or email inclusion@decal.ga.gov.
Q: Will there be any grants for these cohorts like the restoration grants that were given? Are there any incentives to do QR in 2024? What about materials? **A:** There are no grants, additional financial incentives or planned materials currently for 2024. However, please continue to check the DECAL website for any updates to funding that may become available.

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