



Kentucky All STARS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Updated February 2017

For further assistance
Licensed and Certified Programs need to contact Child Care Aware Coach <http://bit.ly/Coach-MAP>
School Based Programs need to contact Regional Training Center <http://bit.ly/RTC-KDE>

PARTICIPATION

Can I participate in Kentucky All STARS?

All programs that receive public funds, including child care centers, Head Start and public preschool, are required to participate in Kentucky All STARS. Child care centers, Head Start and public preschool programs that do not receive public funds are also eligible to participate in Kentucky All STARS.

How do I participate in Kentucky All STARS?

All public-funded child care centers and certified family child care homes will be contacted by a Child Care Aware Coach to enroll in Kentucky All STARS. During this contact, you will receive coaching and technical assistance about the standards, professional development opportunities, and/or ways to improve quality.

There is an application process for preschool programs. When a preschool program completes an application, a Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) representative will contact the program. All preschool programs that have provided the required documentation to KDE have entered Kentucky All STARS at 3 STARS. A team of KDE consultants is contacting all preschool programs to discuss benefits of participation and advancement in Kentucky All STARS.

All Head Start programs that have provided the required documentation have entered Kentucky All STARS at 3 STARS. School based Head Start programs will be contacted by KDE for further consultation and assistance. Licensed Head Start programs will be contacted by Child Care Aware coaches.

Who is required to participate in Kentucky All STARS?

Pursuant to KRS 199.8943, participation in the quality rating system by *public-funded* child-care centers and certified family child-care homes is *mandatory*. "*Public-funded*" means a program *which receives local, state, or federal funding*. However, all programs are encouraged to participate. Participation in Kentucky All STARS will provide programs with resources and supports to increase the quality of care and education provided to our youngest learners.

When will the mandatory migration start?

The mandatory migration has already begun. All licensed child care programs have entered Kentucky All STARS at 1 STAR. Child Care Aware Coaches are reaching out to all programs and asking about their desire to advance to higher levels of Kentucky All STARS. All preschool programs have entered Kentucky All STARS at 3 STARS, if they were able to provide the appropriate documentation. All Head Start programs have entered Kentucky All STARS at 3 STARS, if they were able to provide the appropriate documentation.

What do I do if I'm currently participating in STARS FOR KIDS NOW?

During the roll-out of Kentucky All STARS, programs participating in the current STARS for KIDS NOW program will continue to follow the procedures and processes set forth under 922 KAR 2:170 and 922 KAR 2:210. Participation in Kentucky All STARS will be in addition to the STARS for KIDS NOW program during the migration period and until such time that the Kentucky All STARS standards and processes are incorporated into regulation.

Is this the same thing as the STARS program I participate in now?

No. Kentucky All STARS is the new tiered quality rating system for child care that will be replacing STARS for KIDS NOW.

Will my Kentucky All STARS rating be based on renewal date?

After 2017, your Kentucky All STARS rating will be tied to your licensure month or monitoring date.

Can you explain what you mean by “hold harmless”?

This is a time period for migrating programs into Kentucky All STARS. Programs currently participating in STARS for KIDS NOW will continue to get all rights and benefits under the current STARS regulation until the implementation of the new unified system and adoption of regulations for Kentucky All STARS. The hold harmless period will allow for data collection to inform further development of Kentucky All STARS.

When will the regional forums be held? How many per region?

Forums will be held after the regulations for Kentucky All STARS are filed.

What do I do if I’ve been contacted by someone about Kentucky All STARS but I am confused about my next steps?

All programs that operate with a child care license need to contact their Child Care Aware Quality Coach. All programs that are monitored by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) need to contact their Regional Training Center.

If my program only serves school aged children, who should I contact for more information?

All programs that operate with a child care license need to contact their Child Care Aware Quality Coach. All programs that are monitored by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) need to contact their Regional Training Center.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

What is the definition of professional learning activities?

Professional learning activities are specific professional development (or trainings) that include information about the standards and domains of Kentucky All STARS. Consult your Child Care Aware Quality Coach or Regional Training Center for more information about professional learning activities in your region.

Which developmental screening tool is acceptable?

There is a list of screening tools that are acceptable, in the Continuous Assessment Guide available on the Governor's Office of Early Childhood webpage at <http://bit.ly/CAG-GOEC>. For more information, consult your Child Care Aware Quality Coach or Regional Training Center for more information.

Is the 10 hours of training in addition to the state's mandatory training hours (9 for in home and 15 for type 1)? Who will be checking the hours?

These 10 hours of approved training can satisfy a portion of the 15 hours of annual training required by current regulations. Child Care programs should contact their Child Care Aware Training Coach and KDE Programs need to contact their RTC for training recommendations and verification.

Will the professional learning activities related to strengthening family engagement, developmental screening, curriculum, instructional practices and/or teaching and learning, be an annual or one-time requirement?

During the migration/hold-harmless period, professional learning activities meeting each of the requirements will be accepted regardless of when they were obtained. However, once an official Kentucky All STARS rating is achieved, these professional learning activities will be required during each rating/renewal cycle.

Would it be possible for field staff to have a "Kentucky Career Lattice" information sheet?

The Kentucky Career Lattice document is available on the Kentucky All STARS webpage.

Is the Kentucky Career Lattice viewed in the same way for family child care providers?

Yes.

When reviewing the Kentucky Career Lattice and the corresponding levels, can you give examples of "related fields" in regards to personnel requirements within the levels?

Approved Degree: Includes associate degree or higher in: Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Development, Education for Primary (K-4), Child Care Assistant, Child Development Services, Human Sciences, Individual and Family Studies. **Related Degree:** Includes associate degree or higher in: Psychology, Art Therapy, Child Life, Kindergarten education, Nursing, Speech Therapy, Counseling, Human services, Human services administration or program administration, Nursery School teacher, University or General Studies with emphasis in early childhood, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy.

When will trainings be offered to programs regarding Kentucky All STARS?

Kentucky All STARS Training is available on the Kentucky All STARS webpage. Programs can contact their Child Care Aware Training Coach or Regional Training Center for more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL RATING

Is the environmental self-assessment the same tool the coaches and raters use? Who will administer the environmental self-assessment?

While the standard requiring an environmental self-assessment can be met using the environment rating scales used by the coaches and raters, it is not mandatory. Any assessment of the environment, conducted by program staff, can be used to meet this standard. One example of this is the Quality Self Study.

If my program already performs a different self assessment, will this assessment be accepted?

Yes, as long as it is an Environmental Assessment based on the environment.

Currently the Rater and Quality Coach conduct ERS based on a percentage of classrooms determined by a formula. Will the process be similar moving forward or will Raters and Coaches be expected to conduct ERS for every classroom of a provider?

The current formula used in STARS for KIDS now in preschool monitoring will be used for Kentucky All STARS. An environment assessment shall be completed during each rating visit for one-third (1/3) of the total number of classrooms, including at least one (1) classroom for each of the age groups for which the center provides care.

Will we be expected to use the ECERS-R or ECERS-3?

Programs participating in STARS for KIDS NOW should continue using ECERS-R. KDE will be implementing ECERS-3 training and delivery on a timeline independent of the Division of Child Care. Child Care Aware staff will deliver coaching and technical assistance to child care programs.

Will Kentucky All-STARS use the same Environmental Rating Scales as STARS for KIDS NOW?

Yes.

STANDARDS

Will programs be awarded quality points for meeting NAEYC recommended ratios?

Yes. 2 points will be awarded for meeting NAEYC ratios for Infants, 1 point for meeting NAEYC ratios for Toddlers and 1 point for meeting NAYEC ratios for preschool age children.

What if the required professional development for developmental screenings does not seem appropriate for my staff?

The professional development standard for developmental screenings states that 50% of teaching staff have professional learning activities in developmental screenings. This means half of your teaching staff will complete training in the topic of age-appropriate developmental screenings. These trainings can be conducted by employer, RTCs, and independent trainers and include developmental screenings, college courses, annual screening training for the district.

What if other standards do not seem appropriate for my program?

Kentucky All STARS is a hybrid system, which includes block and point levels. Programs participating in Kentucky All STARS must meet all required standards to achieve block Levels 1 and 2. On the expanded five-star scale, Kentucky All STARS level 1 is obtained by meeting regulatory requirements. Kentucky All STARS level 2 is obtained by meeting a set of required standards in two required domains. At each Level above Levels 1 and 2, programs participating in Kentucky All STARS must meet a required environmental observation standard, score required points in the listed domains and then may choose to be scored for the remainder of required points from a list of domains. Therefore, at Levels 3, 4 and 5, programs participating in Kentucky All STARS have the opportunity to choose to meet the standards and domains in the way most appropriate for their program.

What if I have more specific questions about the standards?

Please reference the Kentucky All STARS webpage, or consult your Child Care Aware Quality Coach or Regional Training Center.

KENTUCKY ALL STARS RATING

Will this be a part of your licensing or certification inspection or will it be separate?

The Kentucky All STARS rating will be separate from your licensing/certification inspection.

If I am currently participating in STARS, should I renew or submit my interim if it is coming up soon?

All early care and education programs participating in the STARS for KIDS NOW program should continue with the current renewal and interim report process. State funded pre-school programs will continue within the same monitoring timeline.

If our program has multiple sites, will each site have to submit if most of the information is the same?

Each program must enroll in Kentucky All STARS and needs to contact their Child Care Aware Quality Coach or Regional Training Center to submit relevant documentation required of participants. Agencies are making a coordinated effort to ease the burden on programs to avoid duplicate submissions.

Can you provide some examples of how to meet each of the standards?

Contact your Child Care Aware Quality Coach or Regional Training Center to receive technical assistance and coaching to meet standards.

When will the verification processes for each standard be released? Will there be lists from what coaches suggested to assist with verifying the standards?

During the hold harmless period, data collected will determine the methods and documentation used for verification.

Which trainings meet the standard that program/site administrators and 75% of their staff complete professional learning activities related to strengthening family engagement?

Programs need to contact their Child Care Aware Training Coach or Regional Training Center to discuss training options to meet this standard.

Will suitable trainings be offered regularly to meet the standards? For example, will there be a professional development opportunity related to strengthening family engagement, curriculum, etc?

Yes, programs need to contact their Child Care Aware Training Coach to discuss training options

Is there a 6 month waiting period for new programs to apply?

There is no waiting period for programs to enroll in Kentucky All STARS.

Will programs still receive incentives based on their Kentucky ALL Stars rating (initial, annual, and quality)?

Yes, while funds are available.

OTHER

When will new marketing materials be made available?

Marketing and promotional materials are being finalized and will be distributed on the Kentucky All STARS website. The Governor's Office of Early Childhood will publicize their availability to partners and providers.