

There are a few minor updates to Washington's QRIS quality standards that we want you to be aware of. They are to sharpen the focus on promoting positive child outcomes:

Changing the Focal Child Outcomes Standard to Child Outcomes: In order to emphasize Washington's value of promoting positive child outcomes, you will find that the Child Outcomes Standard is the first listed. We have moved/blended existing sub-standards that focused on positive child outcomes from Curriculum and Staff, Focal Child Outcomes and Family Support and Partnership to develop the Child Outcomes Standard. An additional sub-standard worth 1 point has been added based on expectations from the Administration of Children and Families and the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge which asks for developmental screening to be conducted within 90 days of enrollment and that the results are shared with parents. Child Outcomes has a point value of 10 points.

Changing the point value of the Professional Development and Training Standard to 10 points from 15 points: We recognize the importance of formal education and training and will continue to offer support and resources to help participants achieve their professional goals. The change in point value was made to keep the framework simple, yet meaningful. With the exception of Facility Curriculum and Learning Environment and Interactions, all remaining standard areas will have a value of ten points.

Changing Family Support and Partnership to Family Engagement and Partnership: An additional sub-standard has been added that asks that providers partner with parents to determine perception of child strengths and needs. This is worth 2 points.

Clarifying licensing expectations in Level Two, Professional Growth and Facility Management: Based on feedback that the expectations around licensing status weren't clear, we have cleaned up the language and removed the requirement that facilities cannot have two or more valid complaints of the same type within six months of application submission date.

Sources of evidence are currently being developed for all standards and sub-standards. Early adopters are not required to meet any of the updated standards this year as we will not be conducting formal assessments.

The quality standards are new and we expect that from time to time, we may need to change language to ensure that our expectations are understood. For example, once the state career lattice is finalized, we will add language to Professional Development and Training standard so participants will see where our standards align with the lattice. We do not expect to make any other significant changes in the near future.

We appreciate your patience and commitment,

The DEL QRIS Team