

ExceleRate Illinois | Preparing to Apply

Instructions for using the ExceleRate Illinois Quality Standards Overview chart

Prior to applying for ExceleRate Illinois, Program Administrators – by themselves or with the assistance of a Child Care Resource and Referral staff member – should review the **ExceleRate Illinois Quality Standards Overview** chart. This chart can help you gauge which Circle of Quality your program may be ready to work towards and apply for.

You will need the following documents:

- ExceleRate Illinois Quality Standards Overview
<http://www.exceleRateillinois.com/docman/resources/13-overview-of-charts/file>
- Circle of Quality chart(s) for details of evidence required
<http://www.exceleRateillinois.com> select How it Works / Licensed Child Care and then select the specific circle
- If your program is interested in or is National Accreditation Commission (NAC) Accredited, please refer to the chart listed below. You should then review the Silver and Gold Circles of Quality.
<http://www.exceleRateillinois.com/docman/resources/11-nac-crosswalk/file>
- If your program is interested in or is National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accredited, please refer to the chart listed below. You should then review the Gold Circle of Quality.
<http://www.exceleRateillinois.com/docman/resources/12-naeyc/file>

Before applying for any Circle above Licensed, a Program Administrator (per licensed site) must attend the ExceleRate Illinois Orientation. If a program is not NAC or NAEYC accredited and chooses the Assessment path at the Silver or Gold Circle:

- An administrator (per licensed site) must attend Registry-approved Environment Rating Scale (ERS) training or CLASS training, as well as Program Administration Scale (PAS) training.
- One teacher per classroom must also attend Registry-approved ERS training or CLASS training.

Using the Quality Standards Overview Chart

Print the **Quality Standards Overview** chart. It is set up by standard and by Circle of Quality. Read through each standard and each Circle of Quality carefully. Indicate if your program has completed the standard. The following guidelines are offered:

Licensed Circle of Quality: All child care programs licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services are recognized in ExceleRate Illinois in this Circle. Note: If your program currently is license exempt, please visit www.state.il.us/dcf for information on the licensing standards.

Programs must be licensed for one year before applying to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Circle of Quality.

Bronze Circle of Quality: All training must be completed before applying for the Bronze Circle of Quality. Completion of training must be listed on each staff's Gateways Registry Professional Development Record.

Silver and Gold Circles of Quality: As you review the standards for these Circles of Quality, if your program meets:

- Below 60% (8 or fewer) of the standards, you may wish to prepare/apply for the Bronze Circle of Quality
- 60% (9 or more) of the standards, you may wish to prepare/ apply for the Silver Circle of Quality
- 80% (12 or more) of the standards you may wish to prepare/apply for the Gold Circle of Quality

Use the chart to track progress as your program implements quality improvements in preparation to apply for a Circle of Quality.



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ExceleRate™ Illinois is administered through INCCRRA under the joint direction of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, the Illinois Department of Human Services, and the Illinois State Board of Education.