

## Section 1 - NAC Accreditation Information

ACCREDITATION START DATE: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_      ACCREDITATION EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

- PLEASE SUBMIT A COPY OF ACCREDITATION CERTIFICATE AND/OR LETTER SHOWING EXTENSION IF IN THE RENEWAL PROCESS.
- PLEASE SUBMIT A COPY OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES (IDCFS) LICENSE.

**\*IDCFS LICENSE WILL BE CHECKED FOR VIOLATIONS**

**1. Accreditation Certificate covers all ages served within the program.**       YES       NO

## Section 2 - Required Training

An on-site Program Administrator must complete the following training before applying for the Gold 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 training will be verified by the Gateways Registry.

**1. Has an on-site Program Administrator completed the ExceleRate Illinois Orientation ?**       YES       NO

## Section 3 - Standards and Evidence

Your program's NAC accreditation meets the following ExceleRate Illinois standards without need for additional documentation: 1A, 1C, 2A, 3A, 3B, and 3C. Standards 4A, 4B, and 4C will be verified by the Gateways Registry.

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

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

### 1B - CURRICULUM

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

**1a.** If Yes, what is the name of the curriculum? \_\_\_\_\_

**1b.** If Yes, is this curriculum on the list of aligned curricula found on the ExceleRate Illinois website?       YES       NO

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

1D – CHILD SCREENING

2. Does your program conduct developmental screenings for all children at least annually, as well as complete screenings within 60 days of a child’s entrance to the program?  YES  NO

If Yes, include a copy of your program’s written policies related to developmental/child screening.

1E – CHILD ASSESSMENT

3. Does your program implement an approved child assessment tool, as listed on the ExceleRate Illinois website?  YES  NO

3a. If Yes, what is the name of the assessment tool? \_\_\_\_\_

If No, please include a narrative description of how the assessment tool used aligns with the program’s curriculum.

1F – INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

A statewide MOU is in development for CFC’s and/or Local Education Agency (LEA) to use with programs. Until a statewide MOU is available, this requirement is waived.

4. Does your program have a written Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the local Child and Family Connections (if serving children under 3)?  YES  NO  N/A (not serving children under age 3)

5. Does your program have a written MOU with at least one Local Education Agency (LEA) concerning services to children age 3 - 5 with an Individual Education Program (IEP)?  YES  NO  N/A (not serving children age 3 - 5)

**OPTIONAL:** If Yes, include a copy of a signed MOU with at least one LEA.

## 2B – TRANSITIONS

6. Does your program implement a written plan of activities and strategies that facilitate the transition of children and families into and out of classrooms, early learning environments, community services, and school settings including the transition to kindergarten? And is the plan shared with parents and community/school stakeholders?  YES  NO

If Yes, please include a copy of the transition policy as well as an example of communication that indicates it has been shared with parents.

## 3D – LINGUISTICALLY AND CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICE

7. Does your program communicate with families in their home language whenever possible?  YES  NO  N/A  
*(not serving families with a home language other than English)*
- If Yes, include an example of communication with families in their home language.

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

ExceleRate system administrators recognize that achieving the required Credentials in some cases is a major leap in an environment where programs are struggling to maintain DCFS qualified teachers, managing staff turnover, and more. For this reason, we have continued to delay the enforcement of Standards 4A and 4B. Programs must continue completing a Continuous Quality Improvement Plan (CQIP) including concrete, achievable goals and action steps the program is making towards meeting the Credential requirements.

## 4C – STAFF DEVELOPMENT

8. Do all classroom staff in your program complete a minimum of 5 hours Gateways Registry-approved training as part of their professional development each year?  YES  NO