

**ExceleRate™ Illinois Gold Circle of Quality**  
**Quality Counts Quality Rating System (QRS)**  
**Licensed Center Alignment Crosswalk**

ExceleRate Illinois Standards	QRS program submit the following documentation to align with ExceleRate Gold Circle of Quality:
<b>1 Teaching and Learning</b>	
a. Learning Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRS program completes self-assessment of classroom quality and writes a Continuous Quality Improvement Plan (CQIP) to address overall score below 4.5, including any classroom score below 4.0.</li> <li>Program's plan addresses how to improve these scores by next renewal.</li> </ul>
b. Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRS program indicates use of aligned curriculum OR submits a narrative description of how the curriculum used is aligned with the Early Learning Guidelines/Standards.</li> </ul>
c. Instructional Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRS program writes a CQIP to address "Interaction" and/or "Language Reasoning/Listening and Talking" subscales scores below 4.75, including any classroom subscale score below 4.0. Note: If this subscale is addressed in CQIP for 1a, it should not be duplicated.</li> <li>Program's plan addresses how to improve these scores by next renewal.</li> </ul>
d. Child Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRS program writes a CQIP for a score on Program Administration Scale (PAS) item #10 below 5.0.</li> </ul>
e. Child Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRS program writes a CQIP for a score on PAS item #11 below 5.0.</li> </ul>
f. Inclusion of Children with Special Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All teaching staff complete Gateways Registry approved training on the inclusion of children with special needs AND program submits annual data on number of children with special needs served AND an MOU with Child and Family Connections (CFC) is in place, if program serves 0-3.</li> </ul>
<b>2 Family and Community Engagement</b>	
a. Family and Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRS program writes a CQIP for a score on PAS items #16, #17, and/or #19 below 5.0.</li> </ul>
b. Transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRS program submits narrative and/or documentation of policies and practices related to transitions for children/families including transition to Kindergarten.</li> </ul>
<b>3 Leadership &amp; Management</b>	
a. Program Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRS program completes PAS self-assessment and writes a CQIP if less than four PAS subscales (excluding Child Assessment and Family Partnerships) score at 5.0 or higher.</li> </ul>

b. Group Size and Staff/Child Ratios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) license is in compliance. Program must meet ExceleRate Illinois standard at next renewal.</li> <li>Programs may be exempted from the ratio and group size requirements at Gold Circle of Quality if they have an average score on the ITERS of 5.0 with no classroom below 4.5 and every Infant-Toddler and Two-Year Old classroom has at least one staff person with an Infant-Toddler Level 3 Credential and the program receives an overall Program Administration Scale score of at least 4.5.</li> </ul>
c. Continuous Quality Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRS program submits Continuous Quality Improvement Plan (CQIP).</li> </ul>
d. Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRS program writes a CQIP for “Promoting Acceptance of Diversity” subscale score below 4.5.</li> </ul>
<b>4 Qualifications and Continuing Education</b>	
a. Director Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program administrator must obtain Illinois Director Credential Level II by July 2016.</li> </ul>
b. Staff Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20% of teaching staff applied for or obtained the ECE Credential Level 5 AND 20% of teaching staff applied for or obtained the ECE Credential Level 4 or higher.</li> <li>Staff must obtain the credential applied for by program’s annual report.</li> <li>Infant Toddler Credential requirement must be met by July 2016.</li> </ul>
c. Staff Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRS program has completed individual staff development plans for all classroom staff, and must submit copies of individual staff development plans for classrooms assessed during last National Louis University (NLU) McCormick Center visit INCLUDING 5 hours of Gateways Registry approved training.</li> </ul>