



## Kentucky All STARS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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### **Are centers that do not receive public funding exempt from participating in Kentucky All STARS?**

**Answer:** Yes. Pursuant to House Bill 234, signed on March 19, 2015, participation in the program of monetary incentives and 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. Per the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant, all required programs must be in Kentucky All STARS by June 30, 2017.

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

**Answer:** The STARS rating will be separate from your licensing/certification inspection.

### **What are deemed professional learning activities and which screener is accepted?**

**Answer:** 50% of staff receives training in developmental screenings as referenced in the [Continuous Assessment Guide](#). Specific examples of screeners will be discussed during Technical Assistance (TA) for verification.

### **Will the environmental self-assessment be the same tool the Quality Coach and Rater use or will this be a different tool? Who will administer the "environmental self-assessment"?**

**Answer:** The environmental self-assessment will be the same Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) tool used by whoever rates your program (Raters, Coaches, RTC Staff, or Race to the Top Consultant.) Someone in the program should administer the ERS self-assessment.

### **Is the 10 hours in addition to the state's mandatory hours (9 for in home and 15 for type 1)?**

#### **Who will be checking the hours?**

**Answer:** These 10 hours can be part of the professionals required professional development hours; however, the 10 hours referenced in this standard are specific to curriculum, instructional practices, and/or teaching and learning. Preschool and child care staff that are responsible for standards verification will be checking the hours.

### **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?**

**Answer:** 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 programs still receive incentive money based on their STARS rating (initial, annual, and quality)?**

**Answer:** Yes, however tiered reimbursement is still in development.

**Will programs be awarded increasing points depending on which age groups they meet ratios for?**

**Answer:** Yes. Two points will be awarded for meeting NAEYC ratios for Infants, one point for meeting NAEYC ratios for Toddlers and one point for meeting NAYEC ratios for preschool age children.

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

**Answer:** All early learning child care programs currently participating in STARS for KIDS NOW should continue using ECERS-R until everyone under the All STARS unified system is trained on ECERS-3.

State funded preschool programs have started ECERS-3 training and their timeline to move to ECERS-3 implementation may be faster than child care. However, both versions of the tool are considered valid and reliable and current scores may be used to determine your STARS level.

**Do all staff have to be given 11 days of paid time off, health insurance and retirement?**

**Answer:** Your policy will define the admin/ leadership practice regarding days off, health insurance, and retirement for full-time or part-time staff.

You will be awarded points depending on the benefits outlined in the program polices (1 point: 11 days paid time off, 1 point: health insurance and 1 point: retirement)

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

**Answer:** All early learning 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.

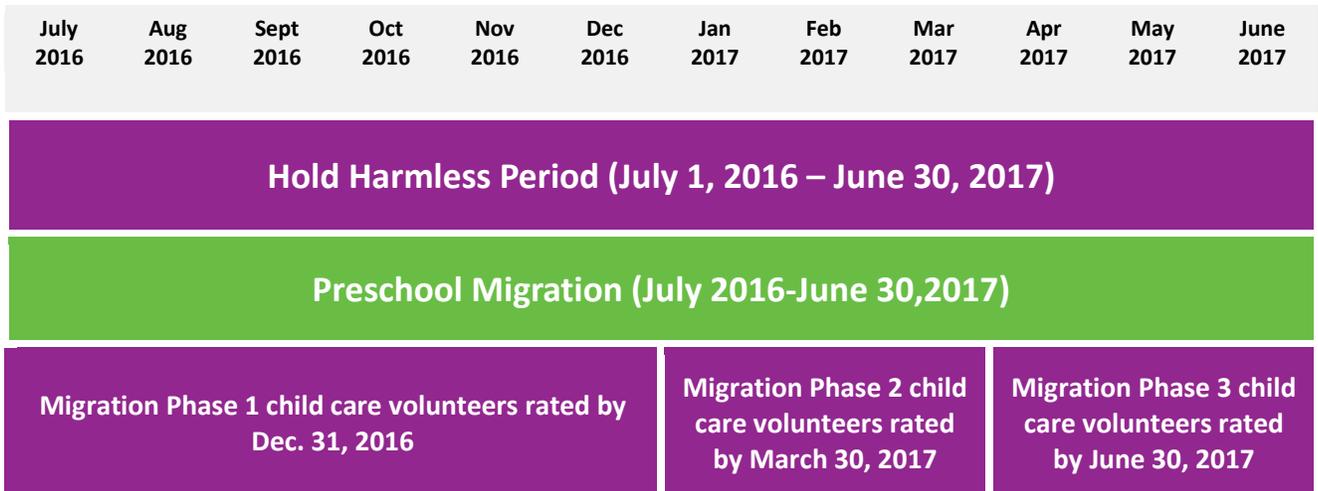
**How do I apply for the new Kentucky All Stars?**

**Answer:** Complete the Kentucky All STARS application to express an interest in migrating to the new system. After completing the application, preschool or child care staff will contact you regarding next steps in the process.

**When will the mandatory migration start? Will it be based on renewal date?**

**Answer:** Sites that wish to increase their STAR rating should complete the Kentucky All STARS application to express an interest in migrating to the new system. Dates for renewal will be determined at a later date. The migration plan is below.

**Timeline**



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

**Answer:** 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 also allow for data collection to inform further development of Kentucky All STARS.

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

**Answer:** At this time each site must apply separately.

**Are the professional learning activities related to strengthening family engagement, developmental screening, curriculum, instructional practices and/or teaching and learning a yearly or one-time requirement?**

**Answer:** These may be one-time activities but evidence may need to be submitted each rating cycle. Ideally professionals would choose to attend these types of professional learning activities frequently.

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

**Answer:** Examples will be provided during Technical Assistance (TA).

**When implementing transition supports for children and families, is this referring to from daycare to school? From infant room to toddler room, etc., from one activity to the other?**

**Answer:** For this standard any and all transition activities are used to meet the requirement. TA will clarify transition supports.

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

**Answer:** Roll out of the regional forums will begin in September 2016 with the focus being on Standards of Quality. Continue to monitor the website for dates, times, and locations.

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

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

**One standard states that program/ site administrators and 75% of their staff complete professional learning activities related to strengthening family engagement. Are Kentucky Strengthening Families Trainings the only ones currently being offered or will other trainings qualify?**

**Answer:** Trainings for Strengthening Families is one way a program can meet this standard. Other trainings will qualify as long as the training meets the criteria, more specific information will be provided in verification TA.

**Will suitable trainings be offered regularly to meet the standards? For example, will there be PD related to strengthening family engagement, curriculum, etc.?**

**Answer:** There will be multiple opportunities for TA, training and coaching in all areas.

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

# Kentucky Career Lattice

LEVELS	EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE
1	H.S. Diploma or equivalent Commonwealth Child Care Credential
2	CDA
3	Associate degree in early childhood or the equivalent of 30 credit hours in early childhood coursework OR Bachelor's degree in a field related to early childhood and at least 1 year full time related experience in early childhood field OR Bachelor's degree in a field not related to early childhood and 10 years full time related experience in early childhood field
4	At least a Bachelor's degree in early childhood OR Bachelor's degree in a related field to early childhood and the equivalent of 3 credit hours in child development and at least 1 year full time related experience in EC field OR Bachelor's degree in a field not related to early childhood, the equivalent of 3 credit hours in child development, and at least 10 years full time related experience in early childhood field
5	Master's degree in early childhood OR Master's degree in a field related to early childhood, 3 credit hours in child development, and 1 year full time related experience early childhood field OR Master's degree in a field not related to early childhood, the equivalent of 3 credit hours in child development, and at least 10 years full time related experience in early childhood field
Administrator/Director	Holds a Kentucky Director's Credential OR Holds an administrator certificate in a field not related to early childhood and the equivalent of 3 credit hours in child development or at least 5 years full time related experience in early childhood field

Please continue to check the FAQ periodically for updates.

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