



Child Care Manual Procedure Letter No. 173

TO: Child Care Manual Holders
FROM: Matt Damschroder, Director
SUBJECT: Step Up To Quality Updated Curriculum and Alignment Process

Background

Programs participating in Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) that are rated at the two to five-star level must use a curriculum that aligns with the Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS). Programs at the three to five-star level must also use a child assessment that aligns with the curriculum and the ELDS.

Currently, these programs complete and submit the JFS 01590 "Curriculum Standards Assessment Alignment Tool: Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers for Step Up To Quality" to show their curriculum and assessment alignment to the standards.

New ELDS were adopted by the State Board of Education on June 14, 2022 and are available for use now.

Updated Process

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), in collaboration with the Department of Children and Youth, have implemented a new process to verify alignment of curricula and assessment with the ELDS. This process, along with currently verified curricula and assessments that align with the ELDS, can be found at this link: [Standards-Curriculum-Assessment Alignment Ohio Department of Education](#). If a curriculum is not fully aligned, the program must complete and have available the supplemental alignment form, also available on that webpage.

By July 1, 2024, all programs must be using curricula and assessments aligned to the new ELDS as detailed in the table below.

Program Rating Status	Process
Your program is currently rated a two-star	The curriculum obtained by the program may be aligned to the old ELDS until June 30, 2024. Beginning July 1, 2024, the curriculum obtained must be aligned to the new ELDS following the process available on the ODE website.
Your program is currently rated a three-star or higher	Program can continue to use curriculum and assessment aligned to the old ELDS

	until June 30, 2024. Beginning July 1, 2024 the program must have obtained verification of alignment to the new ELDS following the process available on the ODE website.
Your program is not currently rated a two-star or higher and you are registering before July 1, 2024 for a two-star or higher	Program must ensure the curricula (for two-star programs) or the curricula and assessment (for three-star programs) selected by the program has been verified on the ODE website. If not, secure verification before submitting SUTQ registration.
Your program plans to register for a two-star or higher after July 1, 2024	Obtain verification of curricula (for two-star programs) or the curricula and assessment (for three-star programs) alignment to the ELDS before submitting SUTQ registration.

Updated Forms

JFS 01590 "Standards, Curriculum, & Assessment Alignment Tool for Step Up To Quality Programs" is no longer available for programs to use.

Three forms updated in CCMPL 162 "Step Up to Quality Forms Updated Due to the New Early Learning Development Standards" are now available in forms central:

JFS 01507 "Curriculum Selection Process for Two to Five-Star Rated Programs for Step Up To Quality (SUTQ)"

JFS 01513 "Activity Plan for Step Up To Quality"

JFS 01592 "Individual Child Plan for Step Up To Quality (SUTQ)"

Implementation

Programs must upload the verification secured from the ODE website at the time of SUTQ registration. If the program obtains and/or implements a new curricula or assessment the verification must be obtained and maintained onsite. If the curriculum is not fully aligned, the supplemental alignment form must be completed.

Programs must also maintain a copy of the verification from the ODE website on site to be viewed at inspections, as outlined in the standards.

Questions

Please contact the Child Care Policy Help Desk at childcarepolicy@jfs.ohio.gov or 1-877-302-2347, option 4, if you have any questions.