

Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Kentucky Board of Education

Kentucky Department of Education

(New Administrative Regulation)

704 KAR 3:015. Kentucky All STARS for Preschool Programs

RELATES TO: KRS 13B, 199.8943, 157.3175

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 156.160

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 156.160 gives the Kentucky Board of Education specific authority to promulgate administrative regulations establishing guidelines for the preschool program. This administrative regulation establishes the Kentucky All STARS Program, a quality based graduated early childhood rating system defined by KRS 199.8943, for the state-funded preschool program.

Section 1: Definitions. (1) “*Administrative and Leadership Practices*” means a domain of standards related to the planning, implementing and evaluating of early childhood program services.

(2) “*Classroom and Instructional Quality*” means a domain of standards related to developmentally appropriate teaching and learning practices in early childhood program settings.

(3) “*Environment observation*” means a rating scale to assess quality in a preschool program setting and consists of the following items to evaluate: (a) Physical environment; (b) Basic care; (c) Curriculum; (d) Interaction; (e) Schedule and program structure; and (f) Parent and staff education.

(4) “*Expiration date*” means the date the quality rating certificate issued by the Department of Education or its designee is no longer valid.

(4) “*Family and community engagement*” means a domain of standards related to involving parents, families and communities in the early childhood program.

(5) “*Issue date*” means the date the quality rating certificate was issued by the Department of Education or its designee.

(6) “*Kentucky All STARS*” or “*STARS*” means the quality based-graduated early childhood rating system as defined by KRS 199.8943.

(7) “*Preschool*” means program services to three- and four-year-old children as defined by KRS 157.3175.

(8) “*Preschool site*” means a location with a school ID code assigned by the Kentucky Department of Education providing program services as defined by KRS 157.3175.

(9) “*Renewal year*” means the year that a preschool site renews its quality rating certificate with the Department of Education.

Section 2. Preschool Site Participation. (1) A preschool site providing services pursuant to 704 KAR 3:410 and this administrative regulation shall participate in Kentucky All STARS:

(a) At STARS Level 3; or

(b) At STARS Level 4; or

(c) At STARS Level 5.

Section 3. ALL STARS Preschool Quality-Rating Level Requirements. (1) The department or its designee shall determine a preschool site’s level using the following four (4) domains:

1. Family and community engagement, which shall include professional development related to family engagement, implementation of family engagement initiatives, and partnership building with community agencies.

2. Classroom and instructional quality, which shall include the use of developmental screenings, curriculum, and assessments, as well as participation in an environmental observation.

3. Staff qualifications and professional development, which shall include the hours of staff training, professional development plans for staff that align with state requirements, and staff credentials.

4. Administrative and leadership practices, which shall include time for lesson plan development, implementation of a continuous improvement plan, and provision of staff benefits, such as health insurance.

(2) The department or its designee shall use criteria developed in consultation with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Governor's Office of Early Childhood to determine points awarded in each domain.

(3) Preschool program sites shall be awarded a STARS level certification renewable every three years pursuant to Sections 4 and 5 of this regulation.

Section 4. Annual Quality Review. (1) During the three (3) year STARS certification period, a preschool site shall verify the site's STARS level annually with the department or its designee.

(2) A preschool site that does not report sustained adherence to the criteria and domains pursuant to Section 3 of this administrative regulation shall undergo a reevaluation of the site's rating as detailed in Section 6 of this regulation.

Section 5. Renewal. (1) The department or its designee shall notify a preschool site at least ninety (90) calendar days in advance of the expiration of the preschool site's STARS certificate.

(2) The department shall determine a preschool site's STARS level based on the criteria and domains specified in Section 3 of this administrative regulation.

Section 6. Reevaluation. (1) The department or its designee shall reevaluate a site's STARS certificate if the:

- (a) Site's location of preschool services changes;
- (b) Site requests a reevaluation within ninety (90) calendar days after receiving certification during its renewal year; or
- (c) Site does not report sustained adherence to the domains pursuant to Section 3 of this administrative regulation.

Section 8. Revocation. (1) The department may revoke, non-renew or take other action regarding award of STARS certification to a preschool site in accordance with KRS 157.3175, 704 KAR 3:410 and 707 KAR Chapter 1.

Section 9. Appeals. (1) If the department or its designee determines that a preschool site does not meet the standards for the STARS level for which the site is certified, a site shall:

- (a) Accept a lower rating level; or
- (b) Request an administrative hearing in accordance with KRS 13B.

(2) If the department's decision is reversed upon appeal, the department shall assign the preschool site the STARS level appropriate based on the resolution of the appeal.

Section 10. Incorporation by Reference. (1) Kentucky All STARS Rating System is incorporated by reference.

(2) This material may be inspected, copied, or obtained, subject to applicable copyright law, at the Department of Education, 5th floor, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.