



FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Sherry Robinson- Chair - District 5
Dr. Chandra Varia, Vice-Chair - District 2
Linda C. Gearheart, Member - District 1
William Newsome, Jr., Member - District 3
Rhonda Meade, Member - District 4

Consent Agenda Item (Action Item): Consider and approve the Validation Study of the Kentucky All Stars Quality Rating Improvement System.

Applicable Statute or Regulation: KRS 162.90 Powers and duties of the Local Board of Education.

Fiscal/Budgetary Impact: None

History/Background:

In July 2017, the Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood began a validation study of Kentucky All STARS, the state's 5-tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The goals of the validation study are to assess the extent to which Kentucky's 5 rating categories capture meaningful differences in quality. What follows is a brief overview of study details.

- Compass Evaluation and Research was contracted to conduct the study. Active data collection will occur between November 2017 and June 2018.
- The study design calls for a stratified sample of licensed and regulated child care facilities, including centers, homes, and Head Start and public school sites with prekindergarten classrooms. This means that sites first were grouped by star rating and general location (urban and non-urban) and then randomly selected for participation. We hope to confirm participation from more than 300 sites.
- Participating sites will be assessed using the Environment Rating Scales and the SpecialLink Early Childhood Inclusion Quality Scale in classrooms with special needs children. Sites also will be asked to complete surveys from the Family/Provider Teacher Relationship Quality scale (Director, Teacher, and/or Parent versions) as well as a Site Questionnaire.
- Trained data collectors will work with selected sites to conduct observations at times that are convenient to sites. A credit with Lakeshore Learning for the purchase of learning materials will be awarded to sites as a thank you for participating in the study.
- Data already "in house" at Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood as well as other state agencies also will be incorporated into the study.
- After data collection is completed, participating sites will receive a Thank You gift in the form of a credit with Lakeshore Learning for the purchase of materials for their sites.

Recommended Action: Approve the agreement as presented.

Contact Person(s): Anna Whitaker Shepherd, Director (606-886-4555)


Director


Superintendent

Date: January 26, 2018

The Floyd County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, marital status, sex, or disability in employment, educational programs, or activities as set forth in Title IX & VI, and in Section 504.



VALIDATION STUDY OF THE KENTUCKY ALL STARS QUALITY RATING IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM



PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM

**Owner or Directors of Preschool Sites Sampled for Active
Participation in Kentucky's ALL STARS Validation Study**

Study Goals

The goals of the Kentucky ALL STARS validation study are to validate the ALL STARS approach and assess the extent to which Kentucky's ALL STARS categories capture meaningful differences in child care quality throughout the state

Study Methods

You are receiving this letter because your site was sampled to participate in the Kentucky ALL STARS validation study. If you agree to participate, the study team will visit your site and collect data about classroom quality using instruments such as the Environment Rating Scales, the Family/Provider Teacher Relationship Quality Scale, and, if applicable, an assessment of practices for children with disabilities or special learning needs. Your site also will be asked to complete a questionnaire asking for information about the site's beliefs about quality early education, site organization, staff education and qualifications, and overall experiences with Kentucky ALL STARS. Selected sites may be invited to participate in a telephone interview. Finally, sites will be asked for assistance in distributing and collecting surveys from parents of enrolled children; completed surveys will be gathered by the study team.

For participating preschools, the study team would like to assess up to two classrooms at your site, which will be randomly selected by the study team. In addition, we would like to assess a blended Head Start classroom (that is, a classroom where children are supported from different sources such as Head Start, subsidies, or scholarships) if there is one located at your site.

For site directors, we anticipate the study will need about 3-4 hours of your time.¹ More specifically, we anticipate needing approximately 30-45 minutes (each) to complete two Site Questionnaires and about 15-20 minutes to complete the Family/Provider Teacher Relationship Quality scale (director version). We also anticipate needing about 1 hour of time over the duration of the study for assistance in checking in upon arrival at your site, and assistance arranging classroom observations, introducing our data team to the teachers, and collecting completed questionnaires from teachers. Finally, we anticipate needing between 30 minutes of your time in organizing the distribution and collection of survey data from parents of enrolled children.

Classroom observations are expected to take about 3-4 hours in each classroom, but will require minimal assistance or interaction from the teacher. We will ask teachers of observed classrooms to send home and collect a completed Family/Provider Teacher Relationship Quality scale (parent modified version) from parents. We also will ask lead and assistant teachers in all observed classrooms to complete the Family/Provider Teacher Relationship Quality scale (teacher version); we estimate this survey will take about 15-20 minutes to complete.

The study team will draw upon data that are "in house" at the Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood as well as other state agencies. Your data will be treated confidentially and transferred securely.

¹The amount of time required will vary slightly by site, with an estimated average of 3-1/2 hours per site.

Confidentiality

All study data will be released to and kept confidential by the study team. Further, any data collected are subject to the confidentiality provisions of appropriate state and federal laws and regulations, which prohibit the disclosure of information without specific written consent, or as otherwise permitted by such regulations. Only authorized members of the study team will have access to your site's data and your site's identity will not be associated with any specific study findings. Hard copies of the data (as applicable) will be kept in secure locations by the study team and electronic versions of the data will be maintained on password-protected computers. Original data with identifying information will be destroyed one year after the study's completion.

Assurances

- Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You have the right not to consent to the collection or use of your site's information or records.
- You have the right to receive a copy of all site and teacher data collected about your site, upon written request to the study team. Note, this does not include child- or family-level data.
- This consent will remain in effect until or unless it is revoked by you, in writing, and delivered to Compass Evaluation and Research. Any such revocation shall not affect disclosures previously made by Compass Evaluation and Research, prior to the receipt of any such written revocation.
- There is no penalty for withdrawing from the study prior to its completion.
- All data will be collected by trained study team members.

Benefits to the Individual

There are no direct benefits to you or your site as a result of this study. This study is being conducted to validate Kentucky's ALL STARS initiative. Your participation may help us better understand the initiative, its policies, procedures, and expectations, and its importance for your site.

Compensation

Your site will receive a gift of up to \$400 in credit for the purchase of educational materials at Lakeshore Learning as a result of participating in this study, allowing us to collect and use your site's data. The total incentive amount for participation is \$250 for completing all versions of the director and teacher questionnaires/surveys plus \$50 per classroom observed.² Because compensation is tied to COMPLETED surveys and observations, total compensation may be reduced by \$25 for each incomplete survey (i.e., three director questionnaires/surveys and one survey for each teacher in classrooms observed) and \$50 for each incomplete classroom observation (i.e., one that ends while in progress). For example, if your site has three classrooms, you may be eligible for a \$400 voucher. However, if two of the classrooms submit incomplete surveys, your total voucher will be \$350. Please note that our team is available to help you complete all required documents and observations to ensure your site receives the full incentive available to you.

Risks to the Individual

The risks to participating in this research study are minimal and are no more than you (your teachers or the children and parents at your site) might experience in day-to-day life. This stated, there may be questions that you do not feel comfortable responding to—in these cases, you can decline to answer a question, you can withdraw yourself from the study, you can withdraw your site from the study, or you can withdraw both yourself and your site from the study. There is no penalty for declining to answer a question or for withdrawing yourself or your site from the study.

² The total amount of the credit depends on the total number of classrooms observed.

Notification of Mandatory Child Report

If during the course of data collection a member of the study team believes that children are being abused or neglected while at your site, she/he is required to report such incidences to the proper authorities.

Questions:

If, at any time, you have questions or concerns about the study and your participation in it, please contact study director directly:

Sarah Heinemeier, PhD
Compass Evaluation and Research
5720 Fayetteville Road Suite 202
Durham NC 27713
Telephone: 919-308-5019 or 919-544-9004
Email: sarahhei@compasseval.com

If you agree to participate, please complete the following page and provide it to a member of the study team. You may retain the remaining pages for your information and files.



VALIDATION STUDY OF THE KENTUCKY ALL STARS QUALITY RATING IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM



Kentucky ALL STARS Validation Study AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE WITH INFORMED CONSENT and PERMISSION (Preschool)

Name of Site: _____ Address: _____

License Number: _____

I, _____ (please print Director, Owner, or Authorized Representative name), authorize **Compass Evaluation and Research Inc.** (5720 Fayetteville Rd. Suite 202, Durham, NC 27713) to collect and use the following educational records and information:

- Two Site Questionnaires to be completed by the director
- Environment Rating Scales (i.e., Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS), Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS), and/or School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS))
- SpecialLink Early Childhood Inclusion Quality Scale, if appropriate
- Family and Provider/Teacher Relationship Quality Scale (director, teacher, and parent (modified) versions)

for the purpose of validating Kentucky's ALL STARS Quality Rating Improvement System

I understand that: (1) I have the right not to consent to the collection or use of my site's information or records; (2) I have the right to receive a copy of such records upon request; (3) and that this consent shall remain in effect until revoked by me, in writing, and delivered to Compass Evaluation and Research, but that any such revocation shall not affect disclosures previously made by Compass Evaluation and Research prior to the receipt of any such written revocation.

I have read the study materials and consent form. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the study. I agree to participate in the study.

Signature of Director, Owner, or Authorized Representative

Date

Contact telephone number

Contact email address

Acknowledgement of Receipt:

Debi Thalhamer, Field Coordinator

Date

THIS INFORMATION RELEASE IS SUBJECT TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS OF APPROPRIATE STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS WHICH PROHIBIT ANY FURTHER DISCLOSURE OF THIS INFORMATION WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE PERSON TO WHOM IT PERTAINS, OR AS OTHERWISE PERMITTED BY SUCH REGULATIONS.



VALIDATION STUDY OF THE
KENTUCKY ALL STARS
QUALITY RATING IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM



Site Information Form

Site Name: _____

Site Address: _____

Director Name: _____

Director Email: _____ Director Phone: _____

Total Number of classrooms at this site: _____

Prior to visiting your site, we will select classrooms for our data collectors to observe. To make the selection, we need the following information for each classroom at your location.

We would appreciate your returning this completed form together with your signed consent form agreeing to participate in the study. Please feel free to make additional copies of this form as needed. Thank you!

Classroom Name/Type (e.g., Infants, Twos, Tadpoles, Preschool): _____

Number of children enrolled: _____ Age range of children (youngest to oldest): _____

Is this a preschool classroom? ☐ Yes ☐ No Head Start or Blended Head Start? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is this an afterschool classroom? ☐ Yes ☐ No Special needs children in the class (i.e., with an IEP or IFSP)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Lead Teacher Name (first and last): _____

Total Number of Assistant Teachers:
(Assistant Teachers spend a large part of the day in the classroom; not special/occasional teachers, floaters, or substitutes.)

Classroom Name/Type (e.g., Infants, Twos, Tadpoles, Preschool): _____

Number of children enrolled: _____ Age range of children (youngest to oldest): _____

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VALIDATION STUDY OF THE KENTUCKY ALL STARS QUALITY RATING IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM



OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY

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Any site in the state can submit anonymous feedback at the weblink:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AllStarsFeedback>. This web-based survey captures general feedback on Kentucky All Stars and quality early learning practices.

Finally, it is important to know that all data will be treated confidentially. This means that data will be reported in the aggregate; individual sites and site data will not be identified in any reporting.

If you have any questions or concerns about the study, please contact:

Sarah Heinemeier, PhD

Study Director

Compass Evaluation and Research

5720 Fayetteville Road Suite 202

Durham NC 27713

Telephone: 919-308-5019 or 919-544-9004

Email: sarahhei@compasseval.com