

Early Achievers Quality Standards: An Overview

Level 1: Licensing or Certification

- This includes child care centers and family home child care, as well as military, tribal, Head Start and ECEAP programs. Facilities must register in MERIT to participate in Early Achievers.

Level 2: Professional Growth and Facility Management

- Level 2 is designed to help facilities understand Early Achievers Quality Standards and program requirements. Facility leaders complete a series of trainings to prepare the facility for successful participation and evaluation.

Levels 3 - 5: Evaluation and Rating

- Facilities that choose to pursue rating will earn points during an on-site evaluation. Final ratings are determined by the number of points earned in the Quality Standard areas.



Quality Standard Areas

<p>Learning Environment and Interactions 60 points</p>	<p>Participants receive points based on average facility score in the following tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLASS: Instructional Support • CLASS: Emotional Support/ Classroom Organization • Environment Rating Scale (ERS)
<p>Child Outcomes: 9 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen children to spot developmental concerns. • Provide ongoing assessment to learn about each child's strengths and needs • Share information about children's growth and progress with families to promote school readiness.
<p>Curriculum and Staff Supports: 11 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a curriculum that aligns with the Washington State Early Learning and Development Guidelines. • Provide planning time and supports for staff for professional growth and learning.
<p>Family Engagement and Partnership: 10 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with families to determine perception of child strengths and needs. • Complete the modified Strengthening Families Self-Assessment and develop a Plan of Action, based on the research-based Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework.
<p>Professional Development and Training: 10 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility and teaching staff have verified state Early Childhood Education (ECE) certificates or credentials, Associates, Bachelor's or Master's degrees in ECE or DEL Approved degree documented in MERIT.