



## Updates to the Early Achievers Participant Operating Guidelines

The Early Achievers Operating Guidelines updates are here! The updated guidelines are effective immediately. For your convenience, we have created a reference list of the updates to this year's Operating Guidelines.

### Added:

- An optional baseline assessment for Level 2 activities.
- Added a Level 3+ rating.

### Updated:

- Re-rate policy has been updated so a re-rate resets the three-year rating cycle.
- Early learning programs serving Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) now have a total of 24 months to rate at a Level 4 or higher in Early Achievers.
- Early Achievers participants who do not reach their Early Start Act rating milestone now have twelve months to complete remedial activities and submit their request for re-rating.
- Early learning providers have more flexibility as they select items to purchase with their Needs-Based Grant funds. Level 3 and higher providers may also be eligible for Needs-Based Grants.
- Tiered reimbursement incentive rates have increased.
- The percent subsidy calculation for Quality Improvement (QI) Awards for family home child care providers includes school age and non-school age children using subsidy. QI Award amounts for family child care providers have increased for sites at Level 3 and 4.
- Family home child care providers and early learning programs serving ECEAP that move to a new location may now keep their rating history by requesting a baseline assessment within six months of moving.

### Removed:

- References to the Department of Early Learning (DEL).
- The Professional Development Training Series from Level 2 activities. These trainings are no longer required.
- References to "File of Supporting Materials" since there are many ways to present evidence of practice.

The updated Early Achievers Participant [Operating Guidelines](#) are available on DCYF's website.