

Organizational Criteria	Determination
<p>Criteria I: Fiscal and Administrative Capability for Administering an Accrediting Process</p>	Acceptable for Gold Circle of Quality
<p>Criteria II: Administrative Policies and System Evaluation Procedures</p>	Acceptable for Gold Circle of Quality
<p>Criteria III: Accreditation Process</p>	Acceptable for Gold Circle of Quality
<p>Criteria IV: Institution’s Standards for Family Child Care Programs</p>	NAFCC Program are accepted for ExceleRate Silver or Gold Circles of Quality and programs will be awarded such with verification of additional requirements described below.

ExceleRate Illinois Standards	Determination & Additional Requirements	
	For Silver	For Gold
1 Teaching and Learning	Accepted with additional requirements described below:	Accepted with additional requirements described below:
a. Learning Environment	Accepted	Accepted
b. Safe and Healthy Environment	Accepted	Accepted
c. Interactions	Accepted	Accepted
d. Curriculum and Child Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provider must identify curriculum and child assessment tool aligned with <u>IELG/IELDS</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provider must choose and implement curriculum and child assessment tool aligned with <u>IELG/IELDS</u>.
e. Child Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois.
f. Inclusion of Children with Special Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois.
g. Linguistically and Culturally Appropriate Practice	Accepted	Accepted
2 Family & Community Engagement	Accepted with additional requirements described below:	Accepted with additional requirements described below:
a. Family-Provider Communication and Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provider offers at least 2 conferences with each family per year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provider offers at least 2 conferences with each family per year.

b. Connecting and Supporting Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider implements at least 2 <u>family supports</u> monthly & at least 2 formal/informal gatherings annually for families in care to get to know each other. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider implements at least 3 <u>family supports</u> monthly & at least 3 formal/informal gatherings annually for families in care to get to know each other.
c. Transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois.
3 Leadership & Management	Accepted with additional requirements described below:	Accepted with additional requirements described below:
a. Business Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>BAS</u> self-assessment and <u>CQIP</u> to address any items below 4.0. • Note: Provider must complete ExceleRate-approved training on the Business Administration Scale (BAS) if not previously taken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois. Verified on-site by state approved-assessor. • Note: Provider must complete ExceleRate-approved training on the Business Administration Scale (BAS) if not previously taken.
b. Ratios	Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois.
c. Continuous Quality Improvement	See 3A	Accepted
4 Qualifications & Continuing Education	Accepted with additional requirements described below:	Accepted with additional requirements described below:
a. FCC Provider Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois.
b. FCC Assistant and Substitute Qualifications (Not applicable if no assistants or substitutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois.
c. FCC Provider Peer Support	Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois.
d. Ongoing Professional Development	Accepted	Accepted

**Additional training(s) will be verified.*

**IDCFS license will be checked for violations.*

Glossary

Illinois Early Learning Guidelines for Children (IELG) – For children birth to age 3: Provide early childhood professionals and policy makers a framework for understanding child development by presenting information on what children know and should do and what development looks like in everyday life. The main goal of the Guidelines is to offer early childhood professionals a cohesive analysis of children’s development with common expectations and common language. These Guidelines also provide suggestions and ideas on how to create early experiences that benefit all children’s learning and development.

Illinois Early Learning & Development Standards (IELDS) – For children Preschool age to Kindergarten Enrollment Age: Developmentally appropriate set of goals and objectives for young children. Early learners must develop basic skills, understandings, and attitudes toward learning before they can be successful in the K-12 curriculum.

Family supports – Refers to the variety of ways that a provider can be responsive to a family needs. This may include: children’s book/toy lending library, referrals to community resources, sick care for children, extended care during evenings or weekends, social functions for families, transportation to/from the home.

Business Administration Scale (BAS) – Tool used to assess the quality of business practices within the family child care environment.

Continuous Quality Improvement Plan (CQIP) – Plan developed to assist providers in identifying and achieving improvements to strengthen their program.

FCC Network – An Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) or Head Start FCC network serves as a means of providing peer support, sharing resources, and enhancing professionalism. The goal of the network is to improve the quality of family child care in a specific area, neighborhood, or community by supporting family child care providers. Networks are staffed with paid personnel who offer regular supports and services to meet the unique needs of FCC providers within the network.