

Organizational Criteria	Determination
Criteria I: Fiscal and Administrative Capability for Administering an Accrediting Process	Meets Requirements
Criteria II: Administrative Policies and System Evaluation Procedures	Meets Requirements
Criteria III: Accreditation Process	Meets Requirements
Criteria IV: Institution's Standards for Early Learning Programs or School-Age/Afterschool Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMS Program Accreditation Standards 	Research basis meets ExceleRate Criteria for Silver and Gold Circles of Quality. AMS Standards are accepted for ExceleRate Silver and 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	Accepted with additional requirements described below:
a. Learning Environment	Accepted	Accepted
b. Curriculum	Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs must demonstrate that their chosen curriculum aligns with the Illinois Early Learning Guidelines for Children from Birth to Age Three and the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards for Preschool Children.
c. Instructional Quality	Accepted	Accepted
d. Child Screening	Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs must describe specific policies and procedures in place for conducting developmental screening and appropriate referral, as needed.
e. Child Assessment	Accepted	Accepted

f. Inclusion of Children with Special Needs	Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs must submit annual data on the number of special needs children served. Programs must have a written MOU with local Child and Family Connections (if serving children under 3), and must have a written MOU with at least one Local Education Agency (LEA) concerning services to children with special needs.
2 Family and Community Engagement	Accepted	Accepted
a. Family and Community Engagement	Accepted	Accepted
b. Transitions	Accepted	Accepted
3 Program Administration	Accepted	Accepted
a. Program Administration	Accepted	Accepted
b. Group Size and Staff/Child Ratios	Accepted	Accepted
c. Continuous Quality Improvement	Accepted	Accepted
d. Linguistically and Culturally Appropriate Practice	Accepted	Accepted
4 Qualifications and Continuing Education	Accepted	Accepted
a. Director Qualifications	Accepted	Accepted
b. Staff Qualifications	Accepted	Accepted
c. Staff Development	Accepted	Accepted

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

**IDCFS license will be checked for violations.*