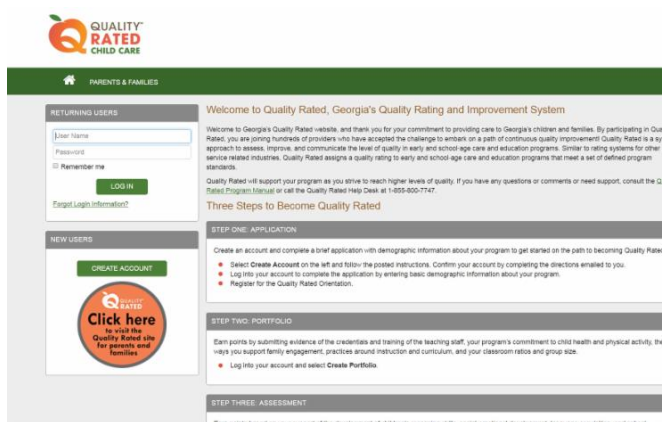




May 2017

Changes Being Made for Submitting A Quality Rated Portfolio



Quick Links

[Quality Rated Website](#)

[Quality Rated Program Manual](#)

[DECAL KOALA](#)

[Environment Rating Scales Institute](#)

[Quality Rated Facebook](#)

[Quality Rated Twitter](#)

[Quality Rated Instagram](#)

[Quality Rated YouTube](#)

What have we been doing?

We have been working hard with our system developers to streamline several Quality Rated procedures with a goal to decrease the time it takes between portfolio submission and the date you receive your rating. **Phase One** focuses on creating an automated system to decrease the time it takes to schedule classroom assessments, thus allowing our assessor teams to complete the observations as quickly as possible once they have received the assignment.

Why are we changing the system?

The current system of submitting a portfolio, waiting for portfolio acceptance and assignment approval, and then communicating with programs to obtain the necessary information before a team can plan and schedule the observation is very time consuming for programs and assessor teams alike. This procedure can be drawn out and often delays the time it takes the assessors to actually schedule and conduct observations.

BLACKOUT DATES INFORMATION																											
Note: Maximum of five blackout days can be selected																											
May 2017							June 2017							July 2017							August 2017						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
30	1	2	3	4	5	6	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	29	30	31	1	2	3	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	1	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Legend: **Yellow** - Portfolio Completed, **Green** - Open Date, **Red** - BlackOut Day, **Grey** - Cannot Select, **Dark Grey** - State Holiday

What will change?

The new system will allow providers to enter all the necessary pre-observation information, including the selected blackout dates, at the time of portfolio submission. As soon as the pre-observation information has been completed and the portfolio submitted, the assessor team will immediately be able to schedule the observation on their calendar subject to their next available opening. While the assessor teams will continue to work within a 90 day window to schedule all observations on a first come first served basis, once your observation date has been determined you will receive notification of the actual 30 day window in which your observation will occur, giving you the ability to better plan.

What will I need to do?

When you know you are ready for a classroom observation you can submit your portfolio. In order to prepare for portfolio submission there are a few things you will need to know and have on hand:

1. Know and be prepared to identify the five blackout dates that you would like to select during the next 90 days.
2. If you operate one or more GA's Pre-K classroom(s) in your facility, know and be prepared to enter any upcoming closure dates for GA's Pre-K within the next 90 days.
3. If your entire facility will be closed for a certain time frame within the next 90 days, i.e. summer break, spring break, winter holidays etc., know and be prepared to enter these dates.
4. Know the current operating hours of your program.
5. Have a current copy of each of your classroom schedules on hand to upload into the new system.
6. Know if any of your classrooms will require a translator, and if so which language you require.
7. Know the maximum number of children you allow in each classroom at one time (this may or may not be your licensed capacity), and the number of children currently enrolled in each room.
8. Know the birthdates of the youngest and oldest child in each classroom and if any children have any identified disabilities or special needs.
9. If you are a family child care learning home, know the number of children enrolled by the following age groups (infants, toddlers, preschool, and school age).

What help will be available?

Knowing that any system change can create anxiety and stress, we are developing online training to assist you with your portfolio submission, along with print resources to walk you through the new steps. In addition your local Child Care Resource and Referral Technical Assistance Specialist will always be available to provide support, as will our Quality Rated Help Desk Associate.

So what do I do next?

Be on the lookout in June and July for next steps. Our staff will be testing the new system in late June and developing training to help walk you through the new process that we hope to roll out in July. Stay tuned for more updates and information regarding the new system, we hope that you will like the streamlined process and will feel more prepared and at ease for the observation.

From the Review Desk: Standard 1, Part B, 1.5 - Teacher Education and Professional Development



In reviewing portfolios we frequently see responses that reflect misinformation, misconceptions or "myths" regarding the intent of specific standards. To support your quality improvement efforts and to help your program achieve the highest star - rating possible, we will, from time to time, seek to dispel myths that often result in earning less points, and therefore, a lower overall portfolio score.

One area of Quality Rated (QR) that continues to generate questions and confusion is **Standard 1, Part B, 1.5 - Teacher Education and Professional Development**. *(This month's article focuses on staff; Professional Learning Plans for administrators will be addressed in a future article.)*

What is the intent of this quality measure?

When Georgia accepted the Early Learning Challenge Grant opportunity, it pledged to build a "Great Workforce." Central to achieving this goal was the foundational work already begun by creating our own quality improvement system that includes measures of teacher education and professional learning.

Standard 1, Part B focuses on the need for programs to recruit and retain highly qualified staff and to plan for the continuous improvement of their knowledge and skills. For purposes of Quality Rated (**Standard 1, Part B, 1.5**), your

commitment to continuous improvement is evidenced through the "Professional Learning Plans" of your staff.

A quality Professional Learning Plan (PLP), at its' best, reflects a balance between the personal professional development needs identified by/for individual staff and the need to meet the overall goals of your program. Programs must ask themselves, does my staff possess the necessary knowledge and skill to create and sustain the elements of the high quality learning environment we envision. If not, how then do we help prepare them?

Quality Rated has identified five specific training topics that arm staff with particular knowledge and skills, that when implemented, contribute to a high quality learning environment. Therefore, points are awarded for training planned in any of the following areas: **inclusion, cultural responsiveness, the support of dual language learners, family engagement, and/or implementation of the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards.**

An individual PLP should be uploaded into the portfolio for each lead and/or assistant teacher in your program. Plans must reference DECAL approved training by topic, the competency code the training will address, the level of the training (beginning, intermediate, or advanced), and the number of hours that will be earned. Training that is not in one or more of the identified topics, is not identified by competency code from the "Georgia Early Care and Education Professional Development Competencies," and is not identified by training level will not count for purposes of QR.

A possible **6 points** can be earned for this indicator, but the score is ultimately determined by the number of early childhood education (ECE) competencies each teacher or assistant teacher will master based on the selected training. These numbers are used to calculate percentages that yield 2, 4, or 6 points. To earn the maximum six points, at least 50% of all active lead and assistant teachers must have a plan that includes training in **three different ECE Competencies.**

The Georgia Early Care and Education Professional Development Competencies can be found on the QR website/Additional Resources/ Professional Development Resources or by [clicking here](#).

Prior to your next scheduled portfolio review, staff should complete planned training included at the time of portfolio submission.

Please feel free to contact the Help Desk at 855-800-7747 or at qualityrated@decals.ga.gov if you need assistance.

Key Concepts in the ECERS-3 : Individualized Teaching



Individualized Teaching

Individualized teaching involves responding to the variation in the abilities, needs, and interests of children in the group; working with individual children in a systematic way that involves determining the child's ability to do a task or learn a concept; providing support and encouragement; using appropriate strategies that respond to the child's needs and interests; and assessing the success of the child in the learning task. Ideally, this is most often done in an informal manner, with little use of directive teaching strategies. Generally during free play, when children can choose which materials to use and use them as they are able, individualizing is present in the curriculum. However, individualizing must be observed in the interactions of teachers with the children as they play, as well as in the range of materials that children are taught to use.

Quality Rated Peer Support Network Announces New Ambassadors



The Quality Rated Peer Support Network (PSN) has a new group of ambassadors for its 18 cohorts.

The Quality Rated PSN was created by child care providers to share ideas, success stories, and lessons learned while going through the Quality Rated process. The PSN cohorts meet quarterly in locations throughout the state. Each cohort is led by one or two PSN Ambassadors.

"Peer Support Network Ambassadors are integral to the success of the Peer Support Network," said Rachael Lee, Peer Support Network Specialist. "They represent Quality Rated while interfacing with their communities at PSN meetings."

PSN Ambassadors are selected based on their proven commitment and passion for improving the lives of Georgia's children and families.

Ambassadors for each of the cohorts include:

Albany: Lisa Kingry, The Family Tree Child Development Center

Athens-Clarke: Valerie Banks Ford, Building Blocks Early Childhood Education Center and Heather Brewer, Bright Beginnings Preschool of Athens

Atlanta: Michelle Hill and Robert Hill, Kidazzle Child Care, Inc.

Bibb: Michelle Cutler & Erin Frazier, Central Georgia Technical College

Bulloch: Michelle Smith Lank, Kids World Learning Center

Chatham: Courtney Robinson, West Chatham YMCA & Pamela B. Connor, The Little School.

Clayton: Wande Okunoren-Meadows, Little Ones Learning Center and Johnise Davis, Childcare Network #235

Columbus: Jennifer Carpenter, Growing Room Child Development Center

Gwinnett - FCCLH-Spanish Speaking Cohort: Gleydis Estrada

Gwinnett: Rebecca Olson, D. Scott Hudgens, Jr. Early Education Center at Gwinnett Technical College and Janna Rookis, Dacula Academy

Metro Atlanta, FCCLH: DiAnne Coggins

Metro Atlanta/Montessori Cohort: Lynn Nehez, Oak Meadow Montessori School

Metro Atlanta: Tabitha Abney, Sheltering Arms

North Fulton: Claudia Wood, Kids R Kids #28

North Georgia (E3Z): Debbie Mann Rector, Whitfield County-Dalton Day Care Center, Inc. & Monica Layne, Schoolzin Schoolzout Christian Learning Center

Richmond: Yiet Knight, Universal Child Care and Learning Center, LLC

Toombs: Jewell Monroe, Lighthouse Early Start Academy

Walton/Rockdale: Beverly Johnson, Discovery Point # 61, Jessica Bigham, A Kids World

Valdosta: Trina Pattulo, Josiah Christian School

Share With Us





QUALITY RATED PROVIDERS

Share With Us

WE'D LIKE TO SHARE WHAT YOU'RE
UP TO IN THE CLASSROOM!

SEND YOUR PHOTOS TO
QUALITYRATED.DECAL.GA.GOV

**Photo or media release forms must be completed for children pictured in any photos.*

Congratulations to the following Quality Rated Child Care Programs

Congratulations to the newest  **QUALITY RATED** child care programs!

- ★★ H.E.R.O.'s Instillment Academy, Albany
- ★ Rivers Day Care, Savannah
- ★ Safe Haven Learning Academy, College Park
- ★★★ Rambam Day School, Savannah
- ★ Islands YMCA Fun Club, Savannah
- ★★ Rainbow Learning Center, Valdosta
- ★ Jacob's Ladder Educational Childcare Center, Centerville
- ★ Graceland Institute of Early Learning, Albany
- ★★ Small World Child Care Center, Thomaston
- ★★ Fun Learning Academy, Albany
- ★★★ Treutlen Head Start, Soperton
- ★ Teach Love & Care Learning Center, Rincon
- ★ Kathy R. Brown, Atlanta
- ★★ Kidz R Kidz Childcare and Learning Center, Statesboro
- ★★ Rainbow Child Care Center (Sugar Hill), Sugar Hill
- ★★★ To The Top Youth Center, Wrens
- ★★★ Liberty Early Head Start, Hinesville
- ★★ Dabel School LLC, Acworth
- ★★ Wheeler Head Start, Alamo
- ★★ Thelma L. DeVerger, Townsend

 **Congratulations to all of our**
QUALITY RATED child care programs
 who've increased their star rating
 in April!

- ★★ Intelli-Kids, Dublin (1 to 2 star)
- ★★ C-Three Childcare & Learning Center LLC, Macon (1 to 2 star)
- ★★★ Sheltering Arms - Norcross Center, Norcross (2 to 3 star)
- ★★ Arrow Christian Academy at College Park, College Park (1 to 2 star)
- ★★ KinderCare Learning Center, Smyrna (1 to 2 star)
- ★★★ Shawn Brown, Lithonia (2 to 3 star)
- ★★ Discovery Point #43, Marietta (1 to 2 star)
- ★★★ Discovery Point #3, Duluth (1 to 3 star)
- ★★ Childtime Childcare #1102, Lilburn (1 to 2 star)
- ★★ Tutor Time Child Care Learning Center, Smyrna (1 to 2 star)
- ★★ South Dekalb YMCA Lithonia Academy, Lithonia (1 to 2 star)
- ★★★ KinderCare Learning Center #1313, Lawrenceville (1 to 3 star)
- ★★★ Kiddy Land Early Learning Center, Madison (2 to 3 star)

Visit qualityrated.org to find
 Quality Rated child care programs in your area!

Forward this email

STAY CONNECTED



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive,
 Suite 670, East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by danielle.williams@decal.ga.gov in collaboration with

Constant Contact 

Try it free today