

## 6.2 How the ERS Is Used In Quality Rated

### Minimum Consistent Classroom Enrollment Requirements

To be able to submit a portfolio and receive a classroom observation, programs must have minimum consistent classroom enrollments as outlined in Section 3.1. There are different requirements for child care learning centers and for family child care learning homes, based on the licensed capacity.

#### *Child Care Learning Centers*

To be eligible to receive an assessment, classrooms in programs serving children thirty-six months (3 years) and older must have a minimum enrollment of at least two (2) children. Classrooms serving infants and/or toddlers (0-35 months) must have an enrollment of at least two (2) children. Programs are required to identify the number of children enrolled per classroom at the time of portfolio submission. If there are no classrooms that meet either of these minimum requirements, please contact the QR HELP DESK for further guidance before hitting "Submit Portfolio". If a program does not contact the QR Help Desk regarding having no classrooms that meet the minimum enrollment and attempts to submit their portfolio, the portfolio will be return to "In Progress" status allowing the programs to update their evidence and resubmit once the minimum enrollment requirements are met. If this happens, it is important to note that a program may experience a lapse in rating and Scholarship eligibility if a portfolio is returned after the previous rating has expired; the program may also forfeit the ability to be rated during the chosen cohort. Due to scheduling constraints, any classrooms that did not meet the minimum enrollment requirements for an observation at the time of portfolio submission will not be considered for an observation at any time during the 90-day window, even if on the day of the observation the enrollment has increased to meet the minimum requirements. Additionally, new classrooms added to programs after portfolio submission will not be considered for observation providing the original number of classrooms determined for assessment is met.

On the day of the assessment, for an observation to be conducted in an ECERS room, at least 2 of the enrolled children must be present. In an ITERS room, the observation can be conducted with 1 child present. If the primary selected classroom for each scale does not meet these requirements, the alternate classroom (if available) will be assessed. In the event there is no alternate classroom, the program's star rating will be based on the classrooms able to be assessed. In the event that no classrooms meet the minimum enrollment requirements, the Assessor will contact Quality Rated leadership to determine if an additional observation date should be scheduled or if the portfolio should be returned. If an additional observation is granted and at that second visit there are still no classrooms meeting the minimum enrollment requirements, Quality Rated leadership will determine the next steps for the child care program, which may include returning the portfolio and moving the program to a different cohort, expiration of a Star Rating, extension or suspension of observation window, rating based on portfolio only, or dismissal from the QR system.

#### *Child Care Learning Centers with a Licensing Capacity of 18 or Fewer Children Operating in One Space*

To be eligible to receive an assessment, the minimum program enrollment must be two (2) children under the age of thirteen (13) years. The FCCERS scale will be used to conduct the observation. On the day of the assessment, programs are still eligible to receive an observation if only one child who is enrolled in their program is present. If no children are present, then the observation will be rescheduled. At the second attempted observation visit, if children are still not present at the program, the portfolio will be returned and should only be resubmitted when regular and consistent enrollment has been achieved.

## Family Child Care Learning Homes

Family child care providers must enroll one (1) or more children under the age of thirteen (13) years to be eligible to receive an observation and a Quality Rated star rating. The provider's own or related children under the age of thirteen (13) years, who are present in the learning environment during the assessment, regardless of their pay status, are considered part of the program for ERS observation scoring guidelines and will be considered in the enrollment numbers. This means that scores will be based on the materials, interactions, and activities provided to all age groups present. The FCCERS instrument is always used during family child care learning home assessments.

On the day of the assessment, family child care providers are still eligible to receive an observation if only one child who is enrolled in their program is present. If no children are present, then the observation will be rescheduled. At the second attempted observation visit, if children are still not present at the program, the portfolio will be returned and should only be resubmitted when regular and consistent enrollment has been achieved.

### **NEW POLICIES ADDED: EFFECTIVE 8.26.2023**

#### *Exceptions for low enrollments and combined classrooms:*

To be able to assess at least one (1) classroom of ITERS and ECERS age groups *typically* served throughout the calendar year for programs that serve children 0-60 months, Quality Rated reserves the right to establish an additional 30-day window to allow both an ITERS and ECERS classroom to be assessed as part of the program's overall Process Quality Points. This policy will be applied when on the day of the observation, a combined mixed age group classroom does not meet the 75% majority for either ITERS or ECERS ages to determine the most appropriate ERS instrument to be utilized and no alternate classrooms are available. Any additional 30-day window needed to complete the classroom observation(s) will be communicated to the program via email correspondence to the email on record in the program's QR account and from the Quality Rated Leadership Team.

#### *Translation Services*

If a program has any non-English speaking classrooms (the teachers do not speak English to the children) a translator will be provided to accompany the Assessor unless the assigned Assessor is fluent in the required language. Programs will identify the potential need for a translator at the time of portfolio submission. In addition, a robotic camera, SWIVL, may be utilized to capture language used during the observation. The recordings obtained will be sent for translation from a DECAL approved translation services vendor and used in conjunction with the in-person assessor's notes to accurately score the observation. Once written documentation of the transcribed language is received, the video recordings completed using the SWIVL technology will be deleted and not used for any other purpose.

### **NEW POLICY: EFFECTIVE JAN 2024**

### **AMENDED PAGE 11**

To receive a three-star rating, a program must have a 5.0 average ERS score for their entire program. If a program scores less than a 3.0 on the ERS in any classroom, the program cannot be rated higher than one star. Effective with 2024 Cohort Portfolio submissions and Provisional or Probationary Portfolio submissions as of November 1, 2023, an entire program's ERS score must be at least a 3.0 average to receive a one-star rating regardless of the portfolio score.