

Guiding Stars of Duval 4.0

Frequently Asked Questions

Program Personnel

1. What is the difference between a staff credential and a FCCPC?

The FCCPC Birth Through Five is a department-approved training program that consists of a minimum of 120 hours of early childhood instruction and 480 contact hours with children ages birth through eight (8). Once the training program is completed, a child care professional would meet the staff credential requirement.

A staff credential is used by child care providers to validate credentials and experience for licensing compliance and participation in the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Program.

2. If a coach comes out to a provider location, will it count as face to face training still?

Please keep in mind that Indicators 1.2 - 1.5 under Training Hours/Professional Development (page 9), require a minimum of 5 hours face-to-face IACET CEU accredited trainings provided by the Early Learning Coalition of Duval. The remaining training can be any of the options outlined in the Professional Development Incentive Program letter. This letter can be found here - <http://www.elcduval.org/>.

In reference to coaching, at this time we are unsure of what technical assistance will be offered to our Guiding Stars participants. We currently have a Request for Proposal (RFP) that will close on September 5, 2019. You may visit our website at www.elcduval.org to learn more about the criteria that will be used to make a determination of which applicant(s) will be awarded.

3. Will directors and assistant directors still be eligible for wage incentives?

Refer to the Guiding Stars Professional Development Incentive Program letter to obtain eligibility requirements for directors and assistant directors (page 3). The letter can be obtained here - <http://www.elcduval.org/>.

4. Lead teachers are no longer required to have a degree or credential. Is this correct?

Refer to page 9 of the Guiding Stars 4.0 guide. Under Lead Teachers, teachers are no longer required to have a staff credential. However, in order to advance to the 2.4 and 2.5 level, a percentage of your teachers must have an AS in Early Childhood, an AA or higher with 18 credits in ECE, or 60 credit hours of college coursework with 18 credits in ECE.

5. Do Family Childcare Home providers need to obtain a directors credential for the purposes of staff qualifications?

Refer to page 10 of the Guiding Stars 4.0 guide. Under Staff Qualifications, family child care homes will only be considered under Lead Teachers, Assistant Teachers (Large Family Child Care Homes only), and Training Hours and Professional Development.

For the purpose of Guiding Stars, FCCH will be defined as lead teachers, and lead teachers are not required to have a director's credential. The Director level will be n/a.

6. Do all staff have to have a CDA in order to qualify for the wage incentive?

Please refer to the wage incentive letter found here - <http://www.elcduval.org/>.

Program Assessment

1. Will the CLASS assessor follow our class out to the playground for observation?

The CLASS Assessor will observe outside time in both Infant and Toddler CLASS Assessments. Typically, the assessor does not go outside for a Pre-K CLASS assessment when it is considered recess or outdoor free time. However on rare occasions, the assessor can observe outside to code an activity such as a science experiment, nature walk, etc.

2. Will the CLASS assessor observe during nap time?

In infant classrooms, a CLASS assessor can observe as long as one infant is awake.

In Toddler and Pre-K classrooms, a CLASS assessor can observe all routines leading up to naptime, but will not observe while the children are asleep.

3. Is there still an option to choose blackout dates during the two week observation window?

Providers will be given a two week window in which the program assessment can occur. Blackout dates are not guaranteed; however, the assessor may allow up to three due to atypical days such as a field trips, picture days, center closures, etc. It is important to note that any holidays will count as a black out day.

4. Will special needs classrooms be given leniency?

The types of interactions described by the CLASS are important for all learners, regardless of ability. Furthermore, regardless of the developmental levels of the students, the observer simply observes and records the interactions that relate to the indicators and behavioral markers in the CLASS.

In some cases, it is obvious that a child has a disability (e.g., child communicates via American Sign Language, child uses a wheelchair for mobility and communicates via an augmentative communication system). However, this information must not impact how the observer assigns codes. CLASS observers must remain objective at all times. Each version of the CLASS manual includes information on the importance of remaining objective. For example, Chapter 2 in the Pre-K CLASS Manual states, "When assigning scores, it is imperative to base codes on the written descriptions of the dimensions. Observers should not adjust their codes upward or downward based on any information other than what they observed in the classroom" (pg. 12). Similarly, Chapter 2 in the Toddler CLASS Manual indicates that, "observers must guard against injecting external explanations for what they see taking place in the classroom. The observer must remain true to the individual

dimensions” (pg. 11). Making allowances or exceptions in coding because children have special needs will result in data that is not reliable.”

Program Content

5. Which school readiness students should receive an ASQ screening?

All enrolled school readiness children birth to kindergarten entry should receive an ASQ screening, whether they attend full time or part time.

6. Are we still required to complete a spring ASQ?

Refer to pages 19-20 of the Guiding Stars 4.0 guide. Children are required to have a screening within 45 days of enrollment and in their subsequent birth month.

For the 2019-2020 validation year only, if a child was enrolled at the center prior to August 12, 2019, we will only require an ASQ completed in the child’s birth month. For example, if you had a child that enrolled April 1, 2019 then that child would only need an ASQ completed in April 2020 (birth month).

For the 2019-2020 validation year only, we will also waive ASQ’s for any children with birthdays in July and August as those months have already passed.

7. Do ASQ-3’s need to be tied to observations on the lesson plan?

It is always best practice in early learning to utilize screening and assessment data to differentiate instruction for children’s individualized developmental needs. However, this is no longer required as part of Guiding Stars 4.0.

8. What portal do we use to register for developmental screenings?

For **non-school readiness children**: http://www.elcduval.org/developmental_screenings/

For **school readiness children**: <http://www.elcduval.org/developmental-health-staff/>

9. Where did the fall, winter, & spring ASQ go?

Guiding Stars 4.0 is now in alignment with the developmental screening requirement for school readiness. An Ages & Stages Questionnaire - 3 (ASQ-3) must be completed for **all children enrolled, aged birth to Kindergarten eligibility**, within forty-five (45) days after the child’s enrollment at the center or family child care home **AND** annually in their birth month.

10. Who is considered a non-school readiness child?

A non-school readiness child is any child birth to kindergarten entry who does not receive a school readiness child care assistance (voucher) from the Early Learning Coalition.

Non-school readiness children include children who are private pay and those enrolled in VPK Only, Head Start, Early Head Start, etc.

11. If a child has been with my program for several years, what do I put down under the date of enrollment on the screening worksheet?

When we look at the child's date of enrollment, we are looking for a true enrollment date. If a child enrolled in August of 2016, without an interruption to services, then the child's enrollment date should be listed as such.

12. Can a parent decline consent to have the ASQ screening completed?

A parent can decline to have a child screened by notating it on the developmental screening consent form. The provider will need to upload the consent form at the time of the child's applicable screening. For example, if declined at enrollment, the provider would submit the application within 45 days of that child's enrollment.

13. Does school readiness include Success By Six?

Yes, unless they are Success By Six only.

14. How will parents receive results from their child's ASQ screenings?

Parents will be contacted by phone to discuss results. Results and age appropriate activities will be mailed to them as well.

15. Difference between the Developmental Screening link and the ASQ Portal link?

The developmental screening link is to be used to complete ASQs for non-school readiness children (private pay, VPK, Success by Six, Head Start/Early Head Start, etc.).

The ASQ Provider Portal is strictly for children who receive school readiness funding.