



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

May 24, 2019

Subject: SCHOOL READINESS QUALITY PERFORMANCE

Questions? Email qualityperformance@oel.myflorida.com or call 1-866-357-3239

General

1. What is the Quality Performance System (QPS)? Is this a new system?

The QPS is the new name for the system formerly called the School Readiness Program Assessment System (SRPA).

2. What is a School Readiness (SR) program assessment?

An SR program assessment is an assessment that measures the quality of teacher-child interactions during a child's typical experience at a child care provider. Program assessments are made up of individual classroom observations using a tool based on the age of the majority of children in the room. The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is the program assessment tool that was selected in Florida. The Web-based Early Learning System (WELS) is used to randomly select classrooms, totaling 50% of each care level, for observation. The observation scores are averaged in WELS to determine the provider's composite program assessment score. Unlike an individual child assessment, a program assessment focuses on the classroom.

3. Which providers have to be assessed?

The SR program assessment is applicable to all providers who contract with their local early learning coalition (ELC) to provide SR services to children ages birth to kindergarten entry. School-age only child care providers are not subject to program assessment requirements.

4. Who will conduct the CLASS observations?

A certified CLASS observer will conduct the observations. Certified CLASS observers may include ELC staff or staff from one of the Office of Early Learning (OEL)-approved third party vendors.

5. Will SR providers have an opportunity to participate in professional development or training to learn more about CLASS?

Yes. SR providers have an opportunity to participate in CLASS professional development opportunities through MyTeachstone online subscriptions. These subscriptions are paid for by OEL. Your local ELC will have information regarding the online subscription process. OEL provides free CLASS tool training for SR providers. To learn more about these trainings, email qualityperformance@oel.myflorida.com. Your local ELC may also offer other training opportunities.

6. Will SR providers receive a payment differential for program assessment scores?

Rule 6M-4.500 Child Attendance and Provider Reimbursements, F.A.C., is currently under development and will define the parameters for payment differentials. SR providers placed on a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) are ineligible for a payment differential.

7. How do the SR program assessment, QIP, and differentials apply to multisite providers?

SR program assessment requirements, QIPs, and differential rates are specific to each individual provider site. The contract has multiple exhibits that apply to the different provider sites that are eligible to contract.

Program Assessment Requirements

1. Is the program assessment required for an SR contract?

Yes. Prior to the 2019-20 contract year, each SR provider site, not exempt from program assessment requirements, must meet the minimum threshold (score) on the program assessment in order to contract with their local ELC to provide SR services.

2. Does the ELC conduct the annual SR program assessment exactly 12 months from the previous assessment?

The ELC should conduct the annual SR program assessment 12 months from the previous assessment. However, based on capacity, the ELC may conduct subsequent annual assessments within 60 days prior or 60 days after the 12-month mark, as long as it is conducted prior to executing a renewal contract. For example, if a provider received an assessment April 2018, the ELC should conduct the follow-up assessment between February 2019 and June 2019.

3. Is an SR program assessment score completed during the course of another quality initiative sufficient for contracting purposes?

Providers that have an SR program assessment conducted during the course of another quality initiative or program on or after April 1, 2018, that meets the requirements as defined in Form OEL-SR 740, may use that program assessment result for the 2019-20 contract year. Additionally, a provider may use an assessment conducted for the Early Learning Performance Funding Project (ELPFP), on or after April 1, 2018, to meet this requirement. Providers that have had multiple SR program assessments conducted must use the most recent program assessment data for contracting purposes.

4. What is the minimum score needed to contract with the local ELC?

Rule 6M-4.741 Program Assessment Minimum Thresholds for the School Readiness Program, F.A.C., outlines minimum scoring requirements. Providers must meet the Contract Minimum Threshold, by receiving a minimum program assessment composite score of 2.51 (rounding to two decimals), to be eligible to contract for the SR Program. Providers that score above the Contract Minimum Threshold score but do not meet the Quality Improvement Threshold of 3.00 (rounding to two decimals) must be placed on a QIP by their ELC for 12 months.

5. When does the ELC have to notify providers of their program assessment score?

ELCs must notify providers of their program assessment score within 14 calendar days after the final program assessment is completed at that site.

6. How do providers access their composite score? Should the coalition give the provider their CLASS Assessment report or just the composite score?

There is an option in the QPS that allows providers to view their composite score. ELCs may choose this option or another way to meet the rule requirement for notifying providers of their composite score within 14 days.

While the rule requires the ELC to notify providers of their program assessment score, the system will automatically notify providers of their composite score on the 14th day. ELCs may give class-level data to providers for the purpose of technical assistance.

7. How long does the assessor have to enter the program assessment information into the QPS? Can the notes be entered in short hand?

The observer must enter the data into the system within 72 hours of completing all required classroom observations. The observer may use shorthand notes to enter observation information as long as they are discernable. Notes are required for all CLASS dimensions. The notes should fully support the score given, with use of examples and quotations from the observation (in the original language used in the classroom). Sentence fragments and easily understood abbreviations are permitted.

8. Can a coalition waive the minimum contracting threshold?

An ELC may waive the Contract Minimum Threshold if the ELC determines that a provider is essential to meet local child care capacity needs as defined in the ELC's School Readiness Plan. Providers that have had the Contract Minimum Threshold waived must be on a QIP. Providers that have been determined to be essential to meeting childcare capacity needs must not be permitted by the ELC to have a QIP for more than three consecutive years.

9. If a provider falls below the minimum threshold (score) for contracting, will the SR contract be terminated?

Yes, for contracted SR providers that fall below the Contract Minimum Threshold, the ELC must terminate the contract and may revoke the provider's eligibility for up to five years. The ELC must send written notice of termination to the provider at least 30 calendar days before the termination date. Written notification must include a reason and identify the contract revocation period.

10. What happens if a provider falls below the Quality Improvement Threshold (score) for contracting?

SR providers scoring below 3.00 will be placed on a QIP for 12 months in an effort to improve the quality of teacher-child interactions for their SR Program.

11. If an SR provider was determined ineligible to contract based on program assessment scores, can the provider get another assessment?

Yes. A provider may request one additional assessment, at the provider's expense, that meets the requirements in Form OEL-SR 740. The additional assessment must be conducted by an approved observer. The new composite program assessment score must meet the Contract Minimum Threshold for the provider to be eligible for an SR contract.

12. Is there a limit on the number of program assessments an SR provider can request?

Yes. The provider can request one additional assessment per contract year.

13. Does the SR contract get amended when a second assessment is conducted?

The SR contract must be amended if the second assessment score changes the need for the provider to be on a QIP or changes the differential percent.

14. If a provider requests a second assessment because they did meet the Contract Minimum Threshold but the second assessment score places them on a QIP, can they request another assessment to come off the QIP early?

No. The provider has already requested an additional assessment. The provider will have to wait until the next contract year to request an additional assessment.

15. If a provider wants to request a second assessment, must they make the request immediately?

While there is nothing in Rule 6M-4.741, F.A.C. stating the timeframe for a provider to request the second assessment, rule does state that at least 60 calendar days prior to a contract execution or renewal, a provider must notify the ELC of their desire to provide SR services in the upcoming year.

16. Can a provider appeal their program assessment score?

No. There is not an appeals process for program assessment scores.

17. If a provider has requested and paid for an additional assessment, can the assessment be conducted on any classroom?

No. If the previously assessed teacher is still actively teaching in the classroom being reassessed, that single classroom may be reassessed. If the previously assessed teacher is not active in the classroom, every classroom that was originally assessed must be reassessed for the new scores to replace the previous assessment scores. In the event there are no or fewer than 50% of previously assessed classrooms or the provider has added any new rooms, all randomly selected rooms must be assessed.

18. Where does the ELC establish the cost for additional assessments? Whom should the provider pay for the assessment?

The ELC must identify the cost to the provider for additional assessments in Exhibit 5 of the SR provider contract. The provider should pay the ELC for the cost of the assessment. The ELC will then timely pay the vendor, if applicable, using a purchase order. When the ELC conducts that additional assessment, the payment would be considered program income to be expended on the actual costs to complete the observation.

19. Would the provider be charged for each classroom additionally observed or is there a flat fee?

The cost of additional program assessments is per classroom required to be observed.

20. Which ELC is responsible for conducting the program assessment for a provider who contracts with multiple ELCs?

The ELC whose service area the SR provider is located within (home coalition) will be responsible for administering the program assessment. ELCs will share program assessment scores through a secure document exchange between the home coalition and the other contracting ELC(s)(away coalition). If a provider is contracted for services with RCMA, then RCMA will be the responsible party for the program assessment observations and QIPs unless a memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been created with a partnering ELC.

21. What if the home coalition only has school-aged children enrolled with the provider and the away coalition has children, ages birth to kindergarten entry, enrolled with the provider?

Responsibility for conducting the program assessment will always default to the home coalition. In instances where the home coalition only has school-aged children enrolled with the provider and the away coalition has all of the **birth to kindergarten entry** children enrolled with the provider, then the partnering ELCs have the option of entering into an MOU for the away coalition to conduct the assessment.

22. Are there any other requirements placed on SR providers for implementation of program assessments?

Yes. SR providers must electronically report, in the QPS, the number of classrooms, teachers, and care levels assigned to those classrooms as outlined in Form OEL-SR 740, Program Assessment Requirements Handbook. Providers must also give consent, in the QPS, to ELC staff or a third-party contractor to administer a program assessment for each selected classroom. Providers that do not comply with these requirements will not receive a program assessment and will not be eligible to offer the SR Program.

Program Assessment Exemptions

1. What SR providers are exempt from the annual program assessment?

- 1) An SR provider that has not received any Class I or more than three of the same Class II SR health and safety violations in a two-year period, and is either a:
 - a. Child care center with 20% or less of filled SR child care slots out of the maximum capacity as defined in Forms OEL-SR-6202, OEL-SR-6204, and OEL-SR-6206 as incorporated by reference in Rule 6M-4.620, F.A.C. **or**
 - b. Family child care home with two or fewer of filled SR child care slots out of maximum capacity as defined in Forms OEL-SR-6202, OEL-SR-6204, and OEL-SR-6206 as incorporated by reference in Rule 6M-4.620, F.A.C.
- 2) A provider that offers only overnight SR services.
- 3) A provider with no enrollments, including providers that have been determined by the ELC to be essential in meeting local child care capacity needs.

Providers who do not serve children ages birth to kindergarten entry are not included in this requirement.

2. When is a provider no longer considered exempt?

When a provider's filled SR child care slots meet or exceed the exemption threshold during the operating hours from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., per its provider type, the provider is no longer exempt. An ELC must monitor filled SR child care slots monthly and notify a provider within 21 calendar days if the provider's filled slots meet or exceed the exemption threshold. A provider must receive a qualifying program assessment within 30 calendar days of the provider receiving notification of the non-exempt status to continue contracting for SR services.

3. Rule 6M-4.741, F.A.C., states child care centers are exempt from the annual program assessment if they have 20% or less of all filled SR child care slots. Does that include school-age children?

Yes. School-age children are included in the calculation.

4. Is the percentage calculation of filled SR child care slots based on both part-time and full-time children?

Yes.

5. Should the ELC use rounding when determining program assessment exemption?

Yes. The ELC should round to two decimal places.

6. When does the monthly monitoring of enrollment begin to evaluate whether the provider remains exempt?

During the 2018-19 SR provider contract term, the providers' SR child care slots will be reviewed by the ELC upon the effective date of Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C., and prior to execution of the 2019-20 SR contract.

- 7. Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C., states that the ELC has to monitor the SR child care slots monthly to determine if a provider no longer qualifies for an exemption;- however, it doesn't say anything about monitoring violations monthly. Does this mean that a provider will remain exempt as long as they meet or exceed 20% of filled SR child care slots?**

No, ELCs must monitor the number of violations as well as the number of SR child care slots.

- 8. Can an exempt provider choose to participate in program assessment?**

Yes. Exempt providers may choose to participate in program assessment requirements by submitting a request in writing to the ELC at least 60 days prior to contracting for the SR Program. The ELC must coordinate a program assessment within 30 days of receipt of the notice. The request to participate in program assessment will constitute a waiver of the exemption and subjects the provider to all of the requirements of Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C.

- 9. When a provider is no longer exempt or if the exempt provider decides to participate in program assessment, does the ELC need to reopen the registration in the QPS and have the provider update their information?**

Yes. The ELC must change the status of the exempt provider and open the system for the provider to be able to complete and submit a registration.

- 10. Does a change in exemption status require an SR contract amendment?**

Yes.

- 11. Are new SR providers with no enrollments exempt from program assessment requirements?**

Yes, new SR providers are exempt until the program exceeds the exemption thresholds outlined in Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C.

- 12. What is the difference between a program assessment waiver and a program assessment exemption?**

ELCs issue a waiver to programs required to have a program assessment conducted, and deemed essential to meeting local child care capacity needs, but fail to meet the minimum contract threshold. Providers that have a program assessment exemption are not required to have a program assessment conducted.

Program Assessment Frequency

- 1. How often must a program assessment be conducted on an SR provider?**

Program assessments are conducted annually.

- 2. Would an SR provider ever have a program assessment conducted less frequently?**

Providers that receive a composite program assessment score of at least a 5.00 (rounding to two decimals) are exempt from the annual program assessment requirement and will only have a program assessment conducted biennially.

- 3. What happens if the provider's assessment score falls below a 5.00 during a biennial assessment?**

If a provider falls below a composite program assessment score of a 5.00 (rounding to two decimals) during the biennial program assessment, the provider will no longer be eligible for biennial program assessments and must have a program assessment conducted annually.

Ownership Transfers**1. When there is a change in ownership requiring a new SR contract to be executed, does the new provider have to have a program assessment?**

Yes. The provider is considered a new provider and must execute a new SR provider contract. The new provider must have a program assessment conducted, meeting the Contract Minimum Threshold, within 90 days of the transfer of ownership and the execution of a new SR provider contract.

2. Are there any exceptions to this requirement?

Yes. The new provider may request to retain the most recent program assessment score from the prior owner without having to conduct a new assessment if the provider can provide documentation to the ELC that it has retained at least 80% of **personnel** as defined in Forms OEL-SR-6202, OEL-SR-6204, and OEL-SR-6206 prior to scheduling a program assessment, or when contacted by the ELC to schedule the program assessment.

Personnel refers to any person employed by, or who volunteers for, the SR provider for an average of 10 or more hours per month, and who either works directly with children and/or is unsupervised with children in care, at any time and for any portion of the program day, during the program's hours of operation. Examples of acceptable documentation include current payroll time sheets and evidence in the DCF CARES system of monitored personnel during the pre-contractual health and safety inspection.

Program Assessment Composite Score Calculation**1. How many classrooms must be assessed to determine the program assessment composite score?**

50% of the classrooms in every care level, ages birth to prekindergarten,, served by the provider must be assessed to determine the program assessment composite score. If there is an odd number of classrooms in a care level, the required number of classrooms must be rounded up.

2. How are the program assessment scores calculated?

Program assessment scores are calculated in WELS using the combined average of the dimension scores, excluding negative climate scores, from each selected composite classroom's assessment. After the dimension scores are averaged, final program assessment composite scores are rounded to two decimal places.

3. Who enters the composite scores in EFS Mod so the ELC knows how much to pay the provider?

This is going to occur as part of a data file transfer relayed from the QPS.

4. Why is there not a section in the SR provider contract to enter the composite score?

This was an oversight and will be corrected when the SR Provider Contract rule is reopened.

Quality Improvement Plans**1. What is a quality improvement plan (QIP)?**

A QIP includes performance goals and quality improvement strategies as provided for in Exhibit 3 of the SR provider contract. ELCs may choose a quality improvement strategy as indicated in the approved SR Coalition Plan or SR provider contract to develop QIPs for providers that need to increase program assessment scores.

2. Does the ELC have to support all of the quality improvement strategies listed in Exhibit 3 of the SR provider contract?

Yes. ELCs must support all strategies, but should base the selection of strategies on the improvement needs of the provider, as agreed upon by the ELC and provider.

Note: If an ELC wants to implement a strategy that is not listed in Exhibit 3 of the SR provider contract, the ELC must submit that strategy to OEL as part of their SR plan for OEL approval.

3. For providers on a QIP, when should another program assessment be completed?

Program assessments are conducted annually. Providers currently on a QIP will have a program assessment completed within 30 calendar days prior to the end of the 12-month QIP term.

4. Can a QIP be shorter than 12 months when substantial completion of the required quality improvement strategy only lasts for six months? Can the program assessment be completed prior to the 12-month period for providers in these type of scenarios?

No, Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C., establishes the QIP for 12 months. If a provider would like to come off a QIP earlier than 12 months, the provider can request an additional assessment at their expense.

5. How many times can an SR provider be placed on a QIP?

SR providers must not have a QIP for more than two years within a five-year period. Providers that have been determined essential to meeting capacity needs may not have a QIP more than three consecutive years. Providers that surpass this number will not be eligible to contract for the SR Program for a period of up to five years as determined by the ELC.

6. What happens if a provider does not meet the Quality Improvement Threshold at the conclusion of the 12 months?

SR providers that have been on a QIP for 12 months and do not meet the quality improvement threshold at the next annual program assessment will have their SR provider contract terminated by the ELC and will not be eligible for a subsequent SR provider contract. Written notice of termination will be sent to the provider from the ELC at least 30 calendar days before the termination date. Providers that have been determined essential to meeting capacity needs that do not meet the quality improvement threshold, may continue to contract with a QIP; however, these providers are limited to contracting with a QIP for no more than three consecutive years.

7. When does a QIP go into effect?

Beginning July 1, 2019, for existing SR providers the QIP goes into effect immediately after the composite score is calculated. For new SR providers, the QIP will start when the contract is executed.

8. Are quality improvement strategies selected per SR program site or personnel?

ELCs must choose at least one, but not more than two, QIP strategies for each selected personnel required to participate. ELCs will select the personnel required to participate in the QIP and the selected strategy.

9. If a teacher is assigned a quality improvement strategy and leaves the SR provider, does the new teacher assume the assigned strategy?

The ELC must amend the QIP and select a quality improvement strategy specific to the new teacher, if applicable and possible, within the remaining QIP period. When determining the new teacher's strategy, the ELC should consider the amount of time needed to complete the strategy for successful completion of the provider's QIP and the new teacher's prior CLASS experience.

10. Can an SR provider who is placed on a QIP get another assessment?

Yes. Providers currently on a QIP may request one additional assessment that meets the requirements in Form OEL-SR 740, to be conducted at the provider's expense by an OEL-approved observer, to satisfy the requirements of the QIP prior to the conclusion of the 12-month QIP.

11. If a provider requests a second assessment to come off a QIP early and their score still falls below the quality improvement threshold, are they allowed to continue on the QIP for the remainder of the contract and then get assessed by the ELC at the end of the QIP?

Yes.

12. Can an SR provider pay for an additional assessment prior to executing the QIP? (e.g. Not executing QIP until contract year 19-20, but provider wants to get an additional assessment now).

No. A QIP must be in progress before a provider can request a second assessment.

13. If an SR provider is not meeting the requirements of a QIP, can the provider request an additional assessment even though they are non-compliant to the QIP requirements?

A provider may request a second assessment at the provider's expenses at any time a current QIP is in progress. If there is an issue with compliance, the ELC should follow corrective action protocols.

14. For SR providers that were put on a QIP or did not meet the minimal threshold to contract, how long do they have to wait to request an additional assessment?

Providers on a QIP may request a second assessment as soon as the QIP is executed. Providers with composite scores below the Contract Minimum Threshold may request a second assessment immediately upon determination of their composite.

Conducting Program Assessments

1. If the observer arrives to conduct the assessment, and the teacher identified in the QPS is absent, what should the observer do?

Rosters should be updated in the QPS at least 30 days prior to the scheduled observation. However, providers should be encouraged to update rosters any time a teacher is reassigned to a new classroom. If the assigned teacher(s) is still active but absent on the day of observation, the observer may either reschedule the assessment within the next 15 days or choose another classroom of the same age group to observe. Note that if the classroom has two occurrences of the assigned teacher being absent on the day of observation, the observer must choose a different classroom in that care level. If there is no other classroom in that care level, the provider shall not have a contract executed until the classroom is observed.

2. What happens if there are no children available for a rescheduled assessment (rescheduled twice), will the SR provider be ineligible for a contract? (e.g. if every time the observer visits the site, there are only school age or no children available).

The provider may not receive a 19-20 SR provider contract until an observation takes place. If they cannot be observed in accordance with Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C., then they are ineligible to provide SR services for the upcoming year.

3. Does the observer have to assess the classrooms that are selected automatically by the QPS system?

Yes, except in the situations described above. The observer may generate a "Schedule CLASS Observation Helper" report from WELS to identify the selected classrooms at a provider site.

4. Should observations be conducted during VPK hours for VPK Wrap programs?

The ELC can conduct observations any time an SR child attends the program, in accordance to the requirements in Form OEL-SR 740.

Data Pull and Provider Information

1. Are all providers required to register in the QPS?

All SR providers are required to activate a QPS account. However, if the system indicates the provider **may** be exempt, then the provider is not required to complete the full registration.

2. Will the ELC be able to see the provider view from the QPS?

Yes.

3. Will the ELC be able to correct data/information for the provider in the system?

Neither providers nor coalitions can edit the hard-coded information in the system. ELCs will be able to edit select information once the system updates are complete.

4. How often is the provider list pulled for scheduling program assessments with SR providers?

Starting in July 2019, data pulls and uploads into the QPS by OEL will occur monthly. The Office no longer sends data files to ELCs since the provider's EFS Mod ID number and license/registration number are readily available.

5. Will the generated user number in the QPS be the same as the provider number issued by the portal?

The QPS assigns a unique ID with either a nine or 99 as a prefix plus EFS Mod ID number to providers that registered using their EFS Mod and their license number.

6. Which is the effective date in the QPS -the date of hire or the date the teacher entered the classroom?

The effective date is the date the teacher began working in the classroom.

7. What does the term "Not Screened" mean in the QPS?

"Not Screened" is a provider status in the QPS indicating a provider activated their record but did not progress beyond that screen.

8. For applicants who previously registered for ELPFP but were screened out, will their information roll over?

18-19 ELPFP participants not selected for participation, due to a screened out or inactive status, will roll over automatically to the QPS. To locate these providers, filter the applications and registrations page using the "Not Screened" status. If still unable to view the provider, send an email to qualityperformance@oel.myflorida.com to request assistance.

9. Is the SR provider required to keep their teacher roster current throughout the year?

Providers participating in a QIP or child assessment differential are required to update their rosters in the QPS at least monthly, and whenever staff change occurs, if they are on a QIP or if implementing child assessments. The provider must notify the ELC in writing within two days of the benchmark due date passing if teacher/director turnover occurs or teachers/directors fail to complete the required timeframes. In addition, the provider must notify the ELC of any changes in staff, any resulting change in classroom status (opening or closing) and any changes to teacher classroom assignments within five business days of the changes occurring. A provider that is not participating in a QIP or child assessment differential is not required to update the rosters in the QPS.

10. If the provider does not currently have any SR birth to kindergarten children enrolled, but could in the future, should they select “yes” or “no” for purposes of QPS registration?

Providers without any current birth to kindergarten entry age SR children enrolled should answer “no” to the qualifying question. This will give them a status of “Screened Out.” The “Screened Out” status allows ELCs to decide if the provider needs to complete the registration process or not based on the provider’s possible exemption status. If a “Screened Out” provider needs to complete the registration process, the ELC gives the provider an eligibility override. The ELC must notify the provider and conduct a program assessment.

11. Some ELPPF applicants previously completed the registration process and input classroom data into the system, but then dropped out of the project before they were approved. The classrooms are currently listed as “Not Screened.” Do these providers still need to complete registration?

Any provider not exempt from the program assessment requirement with a “Not Screened” status must complete the registration process in the QPS.

12. Can a date of birth be used as a unique identifier for teachers or directors?

The Date of Birth field is not a unique identifier. The field is used for teachers and directors as an additional identifier in cases where there are duplicate names such as Brenda Smith, Jerome Jones, Maria Hernandez, etc.

13. Our ELC has a local grant and will be conducting additional CLASS observations; should they be left out of the system?

ELCs may enter observations done for other purposes in WELS using “non-PFP/non-SRPA” as the phase for each of these CLASS assessments.

14. Are we able to generate reports out of the QPS?

All reports from the QPS may be exported as an Excel file. See the “Download” tab to access the reports. If there are report modifications needed by the ELC, email qualityperformance@OEL.myflorida.com.

Child Assessment

1. Should the child assessment reliability certificates match the age group served or is it generic?

Assessment tools are broken down by different ages but it is not a requirement that reliability be established for a certain age group. However it is best practice for the assessor to be reliable for the age group being assessed.

2. What are the tools approved for child assessments?

OEL is currently in the procurement process for selecting the appropriate child assessment tools.

3. Will sample reliability certificates for all approved child assessment tools be provided?

Yes. Sample reliability certificates will be provided after contracts are executed with the child assessment tool vendors.

4. Do all instructors/directors need the reliability certificate or is there a percentage?

75% of teachers reported on the provider’s birth to five classrooms roster must meet the selected tools reliability requirements to receive the child assessment differential rate. Providers must maintain this percentage in accordance with Rule 6M-4.500 F.A.C.

5. Will the ELCs have access to editing a provider's roster when it is in complete status?

No, but providers are prompted to update rosters at least monthly and may edit as changes occur.

6. If a provider is exempt from program assessment, can they still receive the child assessment differential?

Yes. While exempt providers are not eligible for the quality performance incentive differential, they are still eligible for the child assessment differential.

7. Can a 19-20 SR provider contract be executed if a provider chooses to implement child assessments but the ELC has not yet verified the provider's reliability certificates?

Yes. ELCs may give providers until the first assessment period begins (prior to Aug. 1, 2019) to upload reliability certificates as instructed by the ELC. If the provider has not done so by that time, the ELC must amend the 19-20 SR provider contract to change the child assessment selection to "no."

Useful Links

<http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/statewide-initiatives/school-readiness-program-assessment>

<http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/statewide-initiatives/health-safety>

<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=6M-4>