

| Organizational Criteria | Determination |
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| <p>Criteria I: Fiscal and Administrative Capability for Administering an Accrediting Process</p> | Meets Requirements |
| <p>Criteria II: Administrative Policies and System Evaluation Procedures</p> | Meets Requirements |
| <p>Criteria III: Accreditation Process</p> | Meets Requirements |
| <p>Criteria IV: Institution’s Standards for Early Learning Programs or School-Age/Afterschool Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAC Program Accreditation Standards | <p>NAC has demonstrated progress towards developing a research basis for their accreditation and commitment to ongoing study.</p> <p>Accepted for ExceleRate Silver and Gold Circles of Quality and programs will be awarded such with verification of additional requirements as detailed below.</p> |

| 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"> • Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois |
| e. Child Assessment | Accepted | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs must choose and implement an approved child assessment tool. |

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| 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 with additional requirements described below: |
| a. Family and Community Engagement | Accepted | Accepted |
| b. Transitions | Accepted | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program must implement Gold Standard as written. (Focus needed on transition to Kindergarten or next care setting) |
| 3 Program Administration | Accepted | Accepted with additional requirements described below: |
| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whenever possible, program communicates with families in their home language. |
| 4 Qualifications and Continuing Education | Accepted with additional requirements described below: | Accepted with additional requirements described below: |
| a. Director Qualifications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois |
| b. Staff Qualifications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois |
| c. Staff Development | Accepted | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must include minimum of 5 hours Gateways Registry-approved training per year |

*Additional training(s) will be verified.

*IDCFS license will be checked for violations.