ExceleRate® Illinois Accreditation Alignment Committee
Cognia Accreditation Determination

ExceleRate® ILLINOIS | Preparing Children for Success

Organizational Criteria	Determination
Criteria I: Fiscal and Administrative Capability for Administering an Accrediting Process	Meets Requirements
Criteria II: Administrative Policies and System Evaluation Procedures	Meets Requirements
Criteria III: Accreditation Process	Meets Requirements
Criteria IV: Institution's Standards for Early Learning Programs or School-Age/Afterschool Programs • Cognia Program Standards	Research basis meets ExceleRate Criteria for Silver and Gold Circles of Quality with additional requirements described below. Cognia Standards are accepted for ExceleRate Silver and Gold Circles of Quality and programs will be awarded such with verification of additional requirements described below.

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	• 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 Development Standards for Preschool Children.
c. Instructional Quality	Accepted	Accepted
d. Child Screening	Accepted	• Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois.
e. Child Assessment	Accepted	Accepted

f. Inclusion of Children with Special Needs	Accepted	• 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**
a. Family and Community Engagement	Accepted	Accepted
b. Transitions	Accepted	Accepted
3 Program Administration	**Accepted**	**Accepted**
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	Accepted
4 Qualifications and Continuing Education	**Accepted with additional requirements described below:**	**Accepted**
a. Director Qualifications	• Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois	• Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois
b. Staff Qualifications	• Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois	• Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois
c. Staff Development	Accepted	Accepted

**Additional training(s) will be verified.*

**Illinois Child Care License will be checked for violations.*

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Administered through inccrra

1226 Towanda Avenue | Bloomington, IL 61701 | p. 866.697.8278 | f. 309.828.1808 | www.excelerateillinois.com

ExceleRate® Illinois is administered through INCCRRA under the direction of the Illinois Department of Early Childhood.

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