ExceleRate® Illinois |

Licensed Center Application
Gold Circle of Quality Supplement
National Accreditation Commission (NAC)
Accreditation Path

ExceleRate®
ILLINOIS | Preparing Children for Success

Section 1 - NAC Accreditation Information

ACCREDITATION START DATE: _____ / _____ / _____   ACCREDITATION EXPIRATION DATE: _____ / _____ / _____

○ PLEASE SUBMIT A COPY OF ACCREDITATION CERTIFICATE AND/OR LETTER SHOWING EXTENSION IF IN THE RENEWAL PROCESS.

○ PLEASE SUBMIT A COPY OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES (IDCFS) LICENSE.

*IDCFS LICENSE WILL BE CHECKED FOR VIOLATIONS

1. Accreditation Certificate covers all ages served within the program.   ○ YES   ○ NO

Section 2 - Required Training

An on-site Program Administrator must complete the following training before applying for the Gold Circle of Quality.
A Program Administrator may be any person listed in Section 4 of the main application as a Director, Assistant Director, or Director/Teacher. Completion of training will be verified by the Gateways Registry.

1. Has an on-site Program Administrator completed the *ExceleRate Illinois Orientation*?   ○ YES   ○ NO

Section 3 - Standards and Evidence

Your program's NAC accreditation meets the following ExceleRate Illinois standards without need for additional documentation:
1A, 1C, 2A, 3A, 3B, and 3C. Standards 4A, 4B, and 4C will be verified by the Gateways Registry.

For each question below, check either 'Yes' or 'No' to indicate whether your program meets the standard as listed.

If answering 'Yes', additional information and supporting documentation may be required.
Completion of required trainings will be verified by the Gateways Registry.

1B - CURRICULUM

1. Do you utilize a curriculum in your program that is aligned with the Illinois Early Learning Guidelines/Standards?   ○ YES   ○ NO

1a. If *Yes*, what is the name of the curriculum? _____

1b. If *Yes*, is this curriculum on the list of aligned curricula found on the ExceleRate Illinois website?   ○ YES   ○ NO

○ If *No*, include a narrative description of how the curriculum is aligned with the Illinois Early Learning Guidelines/Standards.

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1D – CHILD SCREENING

2. Does your program conduct developmental screenings for all children at least annually, as well as complete screenings within 60 days of a child's entrance to the program?   ◯ YES   ◯ NO

◯ If *Yes*, include a copy of your program's written policies related to developmental/child screening.

1E – CHILD ASSESSMENT

3. Does your program implement an approved child assessment tool, as listed on the ExceleRate Illinois website?   ◯ YES   ◯ NO

3a. If *Yes*, what is the name of the assessment tool? _____

◯ If *No*, please include a narrative description of how the assessment tool used aligns with the program's curriculum.

1F – INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES OR DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS

A statewide MOU is in development for CFC's and/or Local Education Agency (LEA) to use with programs. Until a statewide MOU is available, this requirement is waived.

4. Does your program have a written Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the local Child and Family Connections (if serving children under 3)?   ◯ YES   ◯ NO   ◯ N/A
(not serving children under age 3)

5. Does your program have a written MOU with at least one Local Education Agency (LEA) concerning services to children age 3 - 5 with an Individual Education Program (IEP)?   ◯ YES   ◯ NO   ◯ N/A
(not serving children age 3 - 5)

◯ ***OPTIONAL:*** If *Yes*, include a copy of a signed MOU with at least one LEA.

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ExceleRate Illinois is administered through INCCRRA under the joint direction of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Child Care and Development, and the Illinois State Board of Education.

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2B – TRANSITIONS

6. Does your program implement a written plan of activities and strategies that facilitate the transition of children and families into and out of classrooms, early learning environments, community services, and school settings including the transition to kindergarten? And is the plan shared with parents and community/school stakeholders?

○ YES ○ NO

○ If *Yes*, please include a copy of the transition policy as well as an example of communication that indicates it has been shared with parents.

3D – LINGUISTICALLY AND CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICE

7. Does your program communicate with families in their home language whenever possible?

○ YES ○ NO ○ N/A
(not serving families with a home language other than English)

○ If *Yes*, include an example of communication with families in their home language.

4A/4B – DIRECTOR AND STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

8. Director holds Illinois Director Credential II or higher.

○ YES ○ NO

9. 20% of Teaching staff have a minimum of a Gateways ECE Credential Level 4 and 20% of Teaching staff have a minimum of Gateways ECE Level 5.

○ YES ○ NO

10. 40% of Teaching staff in infant-toddler classrooms have a Gateways Infant Toddler Credential Level 3.

○ YES ○ NO

Administrator and Teaching staff must hold the applicable Gateways Credential, or have a pending application on file. If not meeting the applicable Credential, the program administrator/staff may write a CQIP to outline goals, action steps, specific coursework/ training the individual can accomplish over the year to work towards the applicable Credential. The program administrator/staff should use the letter each individual received from the Credential Department to guide CQIP development in what coursework/training is needed. **Updated CQIP of accomplishments will be required at annual report and progress must be shown towards Standards 4A and 4B Credential attainment.**

Please refer to the ExceleRate/Credentials FAQ for additional details https://www.excelerate illinoisproviders.com/docman/resources/61-09-26-14-excelerate-credential-faq/file

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4C – STAFF DEVELOPMENT

8. Do all classroom staff in your program complete a minimum of 5 hours Gateways Registry-approved training as part of their professional development each year?

○ YES   ○ NO

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