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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Program/Provider,

Thanks to your ongoing commitment to Great Start to Quality, we're making important changes to Michigan's first rating and improvement system for child care and preschool programs starting June 10.

Your feedback regarding how the system could be improved, coupled with insights gleaned from Michigan data and national experts, have resulted in changes to our standards for Staff Qualifications and Professional Development.

How do the changes affect you? Here are the basics you need to know:

- You will have **60 days – from June 10 to Aug. 9** – to update your Self-Assessment Survey (SAS) in the area of Staff Qualifications and Professional Development. All other SAS data will automatically transfer to the new system, although it can be edited as needed.
  - The first step is to go to [www.greatstartCONNECT.org](http://www.greatstartCONNECT.org) and update your program profile. (Important – Head Start, Great Start Readiness Programs (GSRP) and NAEYC accredited programs MUST note these program types in their [www.greatstartCONNECT.org](http://www.greatstartCONNECT.org) profile on the Update Data tab in the Good to Know section.)
- If you fail to submit an updated SAS between June 10 and Aug. 9, even if your program is currently posted on [www.greatstartCONNECT.org](http://www.greatstartCONNECT.org) your program will post as an empty star, which indicates that you are a licensed program.
- Posting of new ratings for programs:
  - Programs submitting a new SAS during the 60 days with a quality level of 1, 2 or 3 Stars will post once an internal review or on-site validation is completed. Programs will be contacted if an on-site validation is required.
  - Programs that self-assess at a quality level of 4 or 5 Stars will require an on-site validation and a PQA®. Their rating will not post until after the PQA® has been completed and approved.
  - Programs that have previously submitted the SAS and have had a PQA® do not need a new PQA®. Their PQA® remains valid for two years from the date of the new SAS submission.

- Posting of new ratings for alternate path eligible programs:
  - Programs submitting a new SAS during the 60 days with a quality level of 1, 2, 3 or 4 Stars will post at the SAS level.
  - Programs that self-assess at a quality level of 5 Stars will post as 4 Stars. In order for a program to be posted as 5 Stars, an on-site validation and a PQA® are required. The 5 Stars rating will not post until after the PQA® has been completed and approved.
  - Programs that have previously submitted the SAS and have had a PQA® do not need a new PQA®. Their PQA® remains valid for two years from the date of the new SAS submission.

You can obtain more information about these changes by reviewing our previously recorded webinars. Slides and frequently asked questions from the webinars are posted on the Great Start to Quality website under the Core Advisory Team tab: <http://greatstarttoquality.org/core-advisory-team>. Additional support is available through your local Great Start to Quality Resource Center by calling toll-free at 1-877-614-7328.

Thank you for helping us to build the best rating and improvement system for child care and preschool. Together we're "Shooting for the Stars" for Michigan's children!

Sincerely,



**Lisa Brewer Walraven**  
*Director, Child Development and Care*  
 Office of Great Start



**Karen Roback**  
*Senior Director of Early Learning Innovation*  
 Early Childhood Investment Corporation



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