

Texas Rising Star Entry Level Next Steps

Welcome – your child care and early learning program is designated as Entry Level with Texas Rising Star. These steps can help your program understand the continued compliance requirements and the next steps towards achieving certification.

Compliance with Child Care Regulation (CCR)



Continued compliance with Minimum Standards is vital to ensuring the program remains designated. Programs are formally checked each April and October to ensure they meet the points threshold. Additionally, the program is regularly reviewed against the initial screening form to determine certification eligibility. These forms are available on the Texas Rising Star Tools and Resources [webpage](#).

Continuous Quality Improvement



Create your Continuous Quality Improvement Plan (CQIP) with your assigned mentor to focus on those specified areas your program seeks support. These plans should initially focus on required elements and can be updated as frequently as needed.

Input Professional Development Records



Utilize the [TECPDS Workforce Registry](#) to upload and track the program's staff annual training hours and educational achievements. Each staff should have their own account linked to the program to allow for quick review and access for scoring.

Prepare for the Certification Visit



The program must request an Initial Assessment at least 60 days prior to its 24-month designation end date. This visit will determine the star level the program achieves. This visit is given a two-week window for scheduling and observes all classrooms. Work with your assigned mentor to prepare.

Communicate Changes



Ensure your program's profile within CLI Engage is up to date with contact information, open classrooms, and program details to support Texas Rising Star staff in providing critical communication. Inform your assigned mentor about any program or facility changes, so they can help you with any required steps.

For more information about certification steps, eligibility or extension waivers, visit:


www.childcare.texas.gov/texas-rising-star



What Can My Mentor Provide?


Every child care and early learning program participating in Texas Rising Star is assigned a mentor to support the program in obtaining, maintaining and achieving certification. See below for information on the supports and resources a mentor will provide.

Mentoring Visits




At minimum, monthly visits will be provided to the program by the assigned mentor. These visits must be scheduled and can be a virtual meeting or on-site meeting. Programs working toward certification or a higher star level are required to have at least one on-site visit every third month. More visits can be provided based on the program's needs or the mentor's availability.

Resources




Mentors will provide programs with a variety of resources that they have access to. These resources may include digital information or templates, physical materials and equipment, or flyers, pamphlets, and other printed information. Many resources are intended as support materials and the program can choose to utilize them as needed or instructed.

Technical Assistance



During a mentoring visit, the mentor will provide technical assistance (coaching) to the program administrator (director) and child care staff (teachers) as needed or requested based on the program's continuous quality improvement plan. This can look like modeling, side-by-side coaching, reflective support, or room arrangement.


Who is My Mentor?



To find out who your mentor is, visit your program's School Profile page in CLI Engage or reach out to your local Workforce Solutions Office.

Find your local Workforce Solutions Office contact information [here](#).

Who Else Can Support Me?



Each local Workforce Solutions Board has the following designated staff to support child care and early learning programs.

TECPDS Specialist: This staff supports programs in uploading documents into TECPDS Workforce Registry and validates records.

Infant Toddler Specialist: This staff supports programs within their infant and toddler classrooms offering training and resources.

