

Approved Assessor Guidance for Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) Classrooms



ALTERNATE PATH PROGRAMS

Programs with Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) classrooms are considered Alternate Path programs in Great Start to Quality (GSQ) because they are monitored at a national or a state level beyond licensing.

GSRP programs will see their grantee listed in the Status tab of the Organization Profile. Programs do not need to take action unless the program feels the information is inaccurate. If that is the case, contact validation@ecic4kids.org for support.

Alternate Path programs that received a 5 Star validation need an on-site assessment score of 4.5 or higher to publish at 5 Star. GSQ uses the Program Quality Assessment (PQA) tools for the on-site assessment. Alternate Path programs have the option to use a GSQ Assessor or an Approved Assessor to conduct their on-site assessment.

- A [GSQ Assessor](#) is an employee of the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) which implements Great Start to Quality.
- An [Approved Assessor](#) is someone with PQA certification that the program selects to complete the on-site assessment.
 - For GSRP classrooms, the Early Childhood Specialist (ECS) is considered the Approved Assessor.

SELECTING AN ASSESSOR

As programs verify their classroom information in the Application, they will be required to select an Assessor Type. Since GSQ uses the Preschool PQA and not PQA-R and/or CLASS, a GSQ Assessor must be selected in STARS for all GSRP classrooms at this time. This way the Assessment Team can manually enter in PQA results for the classroom.

The Assessment Team will verify all Assessor selections during the on-site assessment scheduling process. If an incorrect selection is made or something has changed, the Assessment Team will change the selection as needed.

CLASSROOM NAMES

For the completed assessment results to be shared with the STARS system in the future, the Classroom Name on the assessment results and the Classroom Name in STARS must match using the naming convention of **License Number-Teacher's Last Name**. For example, *DC11111111-McTesterson*. Please note, the names must match exactly this includes spelling, capitalization, and spacing.

ASSESSMENT RESULTS

To utilize assessment results from an Approved Assessor, the GSRP program must first validate at a 5 Star. Next, a member of the Assessment Team will contact the program to discuss the next steps.

During the 2020-2021 school year, Great Start Readiness Programs will use the PQA-R or CLASS. Because cut scores have not been established for the PQA-R or CLASS, calculated ratings for GSQ cannot be made with scores from those observation tools. To calculate a rating for GSQ, there will be a manual data entry by the Assessment Team using the following options for the 2020-2021 school year. The Assessment Team will help each program determine the best option and next steps for their program.

- **GSRP classrooms may utilize PQA scores from prior years**

GSQ may be able to gather this data from the system or may ask the program to provide their OnlinePQA reports from prior school years. GSQ will use results from the 2018-2019 school year or from the 2017-2018 school year if the PQA-R or CLASS was used in the classroom during the 2018-2019 school year.

- **GSRP classrooms can have a new Preschool PQA if PQA scores from prior years are not available or if the scores would not put the program at a 5 Star**

If the Early Childhood Specialist (ECS) is currently reliable in the Preschool PQA, they may conduct the assessment and send those scores to the Assessment Team via email. If the ECS is not able to conduct a Preschool PQA, one can be conducted by a GSQ Assessor.

- **GSRP classrooms can choose to decline the assessment process**

If the GSRP classrooms do not have PQA scores from prior years available and do not want to have a new Preschool PQA completed by the ECS or GSQ Assessor, the program can decline the assessment process and the published rating will be a 4 Star.

Once the PQA results for all required classrooms are in STARS, the star rating will publish and be valid for two years.

ASSURANCES

Programs with GSRP classrooms using PQA scores from prior years will be required to complete the Statement of Assurances for Great Start Readiness Programs. This form will be sent to the program by the Assessment Team once the program is eligible for the assessment process. Until the form is completed and sent back to the Assessment Team, PQA scores from prior years will not be entered for the new star rating.

QUESTIONS

Quality Improvement staff at your local Great Start to Quality Resource Center are partners in navigating the rating process. Contact the local [Great Start to Quality Resource Center](#) or call 1-877-614-7328 with any questions.