

Child Care Information Session

Division of Early Childhood

January 25, 2024

PRESENTED BY

Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent



Presentation Outline

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks
2. Division of Early Childhood Updates
3. Quality Improvements Initiatives/Maryland EXCELS
4. Questions
5. Closing Remarks



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Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood

Welcome to the January Information Session

- Please place your name and organization in the chat.
- Your microphones will be muted throughout today's session.
- Please use the chat box on the bottom menu bar of your screen to submit any questions that you may have during the session.
- Feel free to enter your question during any presentation. We will answer the questions during the Q-and-A portion of today's session.



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Division of Early Childhood Updates

Opportunities and updates from the Office of Early Learning and Office of Child Care branches.

New Leaders in the Division

We're thrilled to share some exciting news with our community – the leadership team of the Division of Early Childhood is now fully staffed!

Dr. Nakeisha Savage

Office of Early Learning and Instruction

The Office of Early Learning and Instruction is responsible for pre-k and kindergarten policy and programs. It also oversees the Ready for Kindergarten Early Childhood Comprehensive Assessment System, Developmental Screening, Early Childhood Curriculum, and the Maryland Approved Alternative Program Preparation.

Vanessa Jones

Office of Family Support Services

The Office of Family Support Services oversees early childhood initiatives dedicated to improving child and family outcomes. It encompasses Patty Centers (formerly named Family Support Centers), The Judith P. Hoyer Center Early Learning Hubs, also known as “Judy Centers”, MSDE Home Visiting Program, and the Head Start State Collaboration Project.

Push to Pre-K

Join Push to Pre-K, an initiative designed to empower child care providers to tap into State prekindergarten grants.

Topics Covered:

- Maryland EXCELS Participation (Recording available)
- Licensing Requirements (Recording available)
- Educational Program Components (Recording available)
- High-Quality Pre-K Definition (Recording available)
- Finding Qualified Staff (Recording available)
- Grant Writing - February 7, 2024 1:00-2:00pm

<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/pushtoprek>

Child Care Provider Portal

- All child care providers with families enrolled in the **Child Care Scholarship Program** are required to have an account in the Child Care Provider Portal.
- MSDE no longer accepts paper invoices, attendance, or scholarship enrollment requests. All of these processes must be completed electronically using the Child Care Provider Portal.

<https://provider.childcareportals.org>

Portal Technical Assistance Session

This will be a walkthrough of the Portal to learn how to navigate the Child Care Provider portal effectively.

January 30, 2024 - 6:00PM - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85987408176>



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Quality Improvements Initiatives/Maryland EXCELS

Jena Smith, Director of Quality Improvement Initiatives

Maryland EXCELS

1. Maryland EXCELS Overview
2. Maryland EXCELS Bonus
3. Resources for Quality Improvement
4. Partnering with Your Quality Assurance Specialist

Maryland EXCELS Overview

An introduction to our Quality Rating and Improvement System.

What is Maryland EXCELS?

Maryland's Quality Rating and Improvement System

Our team provides support to child care and public school programs as they grow and increase their quality.

Support includes:

- User-friendly Standards and online system providing a roadmap for improvement
- Guidance from experienced Quality Assurance Specialists
- Financial incentives like Child Care Scholarship reimbursement, bonuses, and EXCELS payments
- Vendor discounts and Accreditation Support Funds to help programs purchase new materials

Benefits



Participation by County

County	%	County	%	County	%
Allegany County	84	Charles County	70	Prince George's County	75
Anne Arundel County	59	Dorchester County	73	Queen Anne's County	57
Baltimore City	89	Frederick County	49	Somerset County	75
Baltimore County	71	Garrett County	100	St. Mary's County	40
Calvert County	66	Harford County	60	Talbot County	57
Caroline County	56	Howard County	60	Washington County	64
Carroll County	55	Kent County	52	Wicomico County	71
Cecil County	68	Montgomery County	65	Worcester County	65

Maryland EXCELS Bonus

FY24 Bonuses are better than ever!

Bonus Amounts and Eligibility

Centers

Quality Rating	Capacity 1-50	Capacity 51-100	Capacity 100+
1	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
2	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000
3	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$4,000
4	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$9,000
5	\$4,500	\$9,000	\$13,500

Family Child Care

Quality Rating	Family Child Care Homes	Large Family Child Care Homes
1	\$1,000	\$1,000
2	\$1,800	\$2,000
3	\$2,800	\$3,000
4	\$3,800	\$4,000
5	\$4,300	\$4,500

Eligibility:

- Publishing a first time rating
- Re-publishing a Quality Rating 4 or 5

Resources for Quality Improvement

Be in control with Maryland EXCELS resources that you can access anytime.

Increasing Quality Ratings

Ready to increase
your quality rating?
We're here to help!



Maryland EXCELS Account Checklist

Find your personalized checklist of next steps and required documentation in your Maryland EXCELS account.

Don't forget to check back every 30 days to review new feedback.

3/3/22, 3:08 PM

Maryland EXCELS Program

Maryland EXCELS Rating Checklist for Level 2

Provider Name:
License: 123456

Program Ratings

Published rating: Level 1 (✓✓✓✓✓)
Draft rating: Level 1 (✓✓✓✓✓)
Next level: Level 2 (✓✓✓✓✓)

Checklist items

This checklist is each piece of evidence required for the next highest rating: Level 2 (✓✓✓✓✓)
This list generated at March 3, 2022 3:07 PM

Content Area: Staff Qualifications and Professional Development (STF)
Current Content Area Rating Level:
Level 1 (✓✓✓✓✓)

☐ STF 1: Education / Experience
Documentation required: Current Maryland Child Care Credential certificate(s) or letter or equivalent training (levels 2 and 3, only)

Content Area: Accreditation and Rating Scales (ACR)
Current Content Area Rating Level:
Level 1 (✓✓✓✓✓)

☐ ACR 1: Accreditation
Documentation required: Accreditation Reflection and Planning form; Accreditation Interview Verification form; Documentation from accrediting organization showing Validation Visit has been requested; Letter or certificate of accreditation award; Documentation from accrediting organization that annual or other required report has been received

Content Area: Developmentally Appropriate Learning and Practice (DAP)
Current Content Area Rating Level:
Level 1 (✓✓✓✓✓)

☐ DAP 1: Environment
Documentation required: Daily schedule; Philosophy statement

☐ DAP 2: Learning Materials
Documentation required: Statement describing selection and use of learning materials

☐ DAP 3: Positive Guidance
Documentation required: Positive behavioral practices policy (discipline policy) shared with families and/or staff

☐ DAP 4: Planning
Documentation required: Statement describing lesson planning process (SAO)

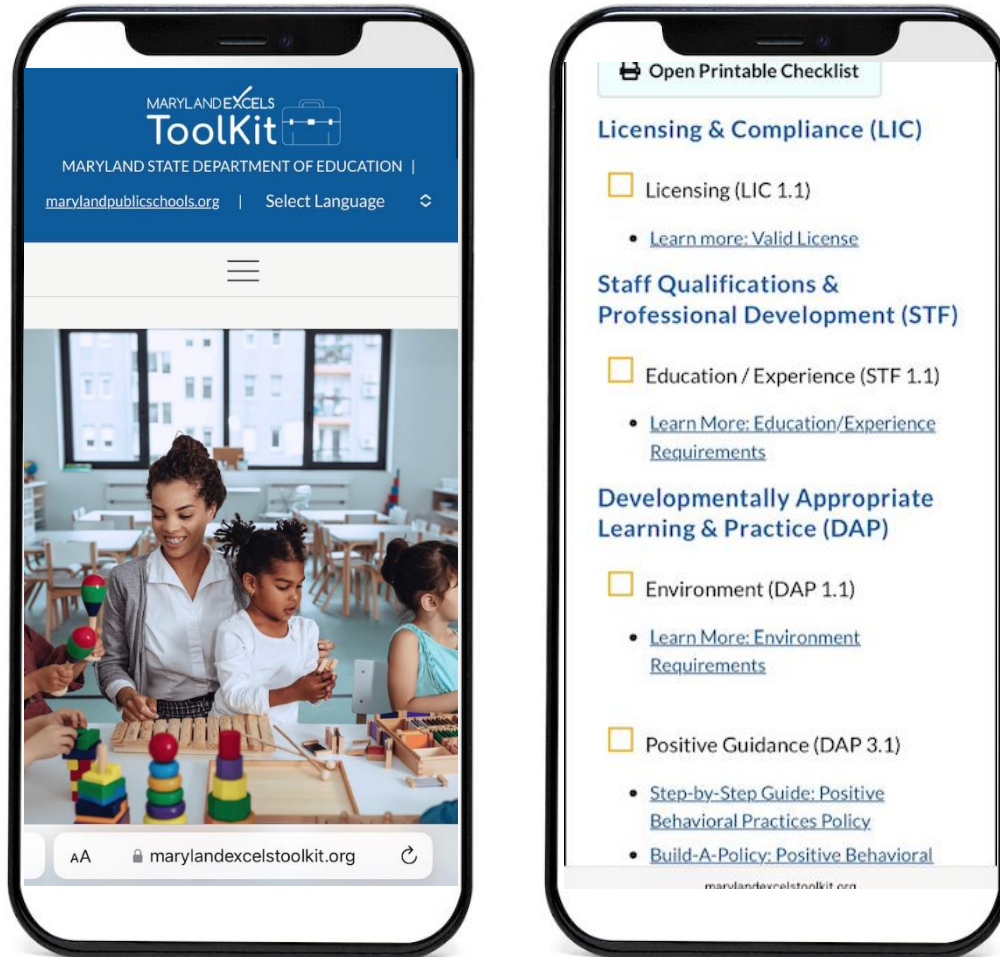
☐ DAP 5: Implementation
Documentation required: Daily schedule; Recent weekly or daily lesson plan (SAO)

☐ DAP 6: Screen Time
Documentation required: Screen time policy shared with families and/or staff (SAO)

<https://excels.marylandexcels.org/Program/#!/program/2191/hubric/checklist>

1/2

Maryland EXCELS Toolkit



Maryland EXCELS Toolkit: marylandexcelstoolkit.org

Find resources, samples, and prompts to help you write new documentation.

Help is available for every standard.

Maryland EXCELS Quick Guides

Quick Guides for Quality Ratings 1-3 do the following:

- Provide a single resource with a checklist of documentation required for all three ratings
- Guide your writing and submission process with notes about how to meet requirements
- Save vital contacts for your program in one convenient place



Partnering with Your Quality Assurance Specialist

Take advantage of free one-on-one assistance and coaching.

Quality Assurance Specialists

Your regional Quality Assurance Specialist is always available to help.

- Technical Assistance
- Workgroups or cohorts
- Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Visits
- Free training

Technical Assistance (TA)

TA is a one-on-one support session that can be scheduled remotely or in-person.

- Discuss next steps for program improvement
- Receive guidance on writing documentation
- Learn more about training and resources available in your region

Workgroups and Cohorts

Workgroups and cohorts allow you to work with and learn from other providers in your county.

- Collaborate on writing documentation
- Share tips and troubleshoot problems
- Connect with mentors and peer support

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Visits

CQI Visits are required for participation in Maryland EXCELS.

These site visits allow your QAS to get to know your program and offer more personalized support.

- Show off your program environment and dedicated staff
- Discuss your quality rating and next steps
- Ask questions and learn more Maryland EXCELS, the Division of Early Childhood, and other resources that can support your program

Contact Your Regional QAS

Find Your QAS at
Marylandexcels.org

MARYLANDEXCELS

Quality Assurance Specialists
Contact Information

Contact a Quality Assurance Specialist for assistance with increasing your quality rating and to learn more about available training, work groups, and resources.

Name	County/Region	Email	Phone
Lisa B.J. Smith	Baltimore County	lisa.smith1@maryland.gov	(410) 583-6213
Ashley Hensley	Baltimore County	ashley.hensley@maryland.gov	(410) 583-6215
Patty Aburn	Baltimore City	patricia.aburn@maryland.gov	(667) 354-5190
Audrey Cupe Green	Baltimore City	audreyc.green@maryland.gov	(667) 354-5191
Rosemary Lober	Cecil & Harford	rosemary.lober@maryland.gov	(410) 569-2879 ext. 302
Monique Dawkins	Carroll & Howard	monique.dawkins@maryland.gov	(410) 750-9034
Yvonne F. Bell	Montgomery	yvonne.bell@maryland.gov	(240) 314-1422
Petrea Hicks	Frederick	petrea.hicks@maryland.gov	(301) 696-9766 ext. 8
Laura Kefauver	Allegany, Garrett & Washington	laura.kefauver@maryland.gov	(301) 791-4586 ext. 305
Mary Beth Johnson	The Eastern Shore	maryb.johnson@maryland.gov	(410) 819-5801 ext. 108
Urceal Cook	Prince George's	urceal.cook@maryland.gov	(443) 837-5778
Korbalagae Kuawogai	Prince George's	korbalagae.kuawogai@maryland.gov	(301) 333-6954
Vickie DiSanto Program Quality and Improvement Coordinator	Anne Arundel, Baltimore County, Cecil, Harford, the Eastern Shore	vickie.disanto@maryland.gov	(240) 314-1408
Meghan Leach-Gwynn Program Quality and Improvement Coordinator	Baltimore City, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Allegany, Frederick, Garrett & Washington	meghan.leach@maryland.gov	(410) 549-6494
L'Ornya Bowie Program Quality and Improvement Coordinator	Montgomery, Prince George's, Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's	lornya.bowie@maryland.gov	(240) 314-1426

For additional information, visit marylandexcels.org.

12.6.2023

Stay In Touch

Vickie DiSanto
Program Quality Improvement Coordinator
vickie.disanto@maryland.gov
(240) 314-1408

Meghan Leach-Gwynn
Program Quality Improvement Coordinator
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(410) 549-6494

L'Ornya Bowie
Program Quality Improvement Coordinator
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(240) 314-1426



Stay in the Loop!

Watch your inbox for training newsletters and reminders	Follow us on social media: @MarylandEXCELS Tag us: #MarylandEXCELS	Log into your Maryland EXCELS account once a month for updates
	  	



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Questions

A summary of this session.

Questions?

Contact Information

Branch/Office	Contact Information
Division of Early Childhood	earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov
Office of Early Learning and Instruction	early.learningbranchesmsde@maryland.gov
Office of Family Support Services	collaboration.programimprovement@maryland.gov
Office of Child Care	earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov
Licensing	licensingocc.msde@maryland.gov
Workforce Advancement	workforceadvancementocc.msde@maryland.gov 1-877-355-1229
Child Care Scholarship Program	CCSCentral2@maryland.gov 1-877-227-0125
Maryland EXCELS	info@marylandexcels.org or marylandexcels.org



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