MARYLAND EXCELS

CHECK FOR QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS

✓ **What?**   Maryland EXCELS is a voluntary Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (TQRIS) for Child Care Centers, School-Age Child Care Programs, Family Child Care Homes, and Public Pre-Kindergartens. Five progressive check levels define a pathway to excellence for participating programs. Maryland EXCELS creates a core framework that encompasses quality initiatives in Accreditation, Credentialing and Professional Development, Developmentally Appropriate Activities, and Administrative Practices. Thirty states have TQRIS systems in place and nearly all states are engaged in developing early education quality improvement programs. A variety of incentives are offered for participation.

✓ **Why?** Maryland EXCELS recognizes the accomplishments of early childhood and school-age programs and providers, offers information to families on choosing quality child care and articulates to the public the level of quality in early and school-age care and education programs. Through a vigorous information campaign, the public will be educated about the benefits to the child, the family and the greater community of choosing high quality early childhood and school-age programs. EXCELS programs have full access to all MSDE incentives and supports.

✓ **When?** Maryland EXCELS opened for statewide participation in July 2013. Maryland EXCELS standards were developed by a workgroup representing family child care, child care centers, school-age child care, special education, and the training and advocacy community. The system was piloted and field tested from 2010-2013 prior to full implementation.

✓ **How?** For more information and to register your program, visit the website at: www.MarylandExcels.org or email: mdexcels@msde.state.md.us.

✓ **Who?** Quality begins with **YOU!**

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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