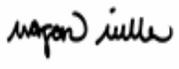


## TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION LETTER

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| <b>ID/No:</b>     | WD 19-16                 |
| <b>Date:</b>      | September 13, 2016       |
| <b>Keyword:</b>   | Child Care               |
| <b>Effective:</b> | <b>September 1, 2016</b> |

**To:** Local Workforce Development Board Executive Directors  
Commission Executive Offices  
Integrated Service Area Managers



**From:** Reagan Miller, Deputy Director, Workforce Solutions

**Subject:** **Texas Rising Star Revisions: Measures and Guidelines**

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### **PURPOSE:**

To provide Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) with information and guidance on:

- revisions to the Texas Rising Star (TRS) measures and guidelines; and
- modifications to the TRS process.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Throughout fall 2015, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) hosted four public meetings on the subsidized Child Care program. During the meetings, the majority of the comments received were regarding TRS; this prompted TWC to host two provider working group sessions to gather feedback and recommendations on TRS.

TWC held the first provider working group session on January 11, 2016, in Austin, and the second session on January 19, 2016, in Dallas. Additionally, TWC held a working group session for TRS assessor and mentor staff on January 26, 2016.

On March 9, 2016, TWC's three-member Commission (Commission) approved changes to TRS measures and guidelines based on the input from the working group sessions. The Commission approved certain measures and guidelines to become effective April 1, 2016, and additional measures and guidelines to become effective September 1, 2016.

WD Letter 06-16, Change 1, released April 8, 2016, and entitled "Texas Rising Star Revisions: Measures and Guidelines—*Update*," reflects changes effective April 1, 2016. This WD Letter describes measures and guidelines effective September 1, 2016.

As previously mentioned, the Commission approved changes to TRS measures and guidelines, to be effective September 1, 2016. These changes involved research and revisions to both the TRS guidelines and the TRS Technical Scoring Manual (TSM). Both the TRS guidelines and TSM were revised over the course of March and April 2016 and sent to Boards for review and comment. Based on Board input, the guidelines and TSM were revised in July 2016.

Additionally, TWC conducted a statewide training in Austin from August 9 through August 12, 2016, for TRS mentors and assessors on all TRS changes.

## **PROCEDURES:**

**NLF:** Boards must be aware that the TRS Provider Certification Guidelines (TRS Guidelines) are posted at <https://texasrisingstar.org/> and include the changes effective April 1, 2016 (as described in WD Letter 06-16, Change 1, issued April 8, 2016, and entitled “Texas Rising Star Revisions: Measures and Guidelines—*Update*”), and the changes effective September 1, 2016, as described in this WD Letter.

### **TRS Measure Changes:**

**NLF:** Boards must be aware that on March 9, 2016, the Commission approved the following measure changes to become effective September 1, 2016:

#### **Category 2: Caregiver and Child Interactions**

Group size was removed as a required measure. The group size and ratio measures were combined to create a point-based measure (P-GSSR-01) per age group. This measure only applies to center- and school-based care only.

Measure P-SCR-08 was removed.

#### **Category 3: Curriculum**

The following measures were removed:

- Measure P-LPC-01
- Measure P-LPC-13
- Measure P-IFAL-01

A “Not Applicable” (N/A) was added as an option for scoring for measure P-LPC-14.

#### **Category 5: Parent Education and Involvement**

Measure S-PE-03 was removed.

### **Assessment Methodology Changes:**

**NLF:** Boards must be aware that on March 9, 2016, the Commission approved the following assessment methodology changes effective September 1, 2016:

### Category 3: Curriculum

#### Amend Curriculum Measures

**NLF**: Boards must be aware that on March 9, 2016, the Commission approved providing a lesson plan checklist to assist in evaluating lesson plans and clarifying required elements.

The curriculum checklist has been added to the appendix of the Technical Scoring Manual.

#### **TRS Guidelines Changes:**

##### **Add TRS Pre- and Post-Assessment Protocol**

**NLF**: Boards must be aware that on March 9, 2016, the Commission approved adding standards for TRS Pre- and Post-Assessment protocol. The protocol will be available to child care providers to clarify the on-site assessment process.

The following documents have been added to Section 5 of the TRS Guidelines:

- TRS Assessor Protocol
- TRS Mentor Protocol
- Checklist: Mentoring Protocol
- TRS Needs Assessment

#### **INQUIRIES:**

Direct inquiries regarding this WD Letter to [wfpolicy.clarifications@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:wfpolicy.clarifications@twc.state.tx.us).

#### **RESCISSIONS:**

None

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#### **REFERENCES:**

Texas Workforce Commission Child Care Services Rules: 40 TAC, Chapter 809  
WD Letter 06-16, Change 1, issued April 8, 2016, and entitled “Texas Rising Star Revisions: Measures and Guidelines—*Update*”

#### **FLEXIBILITY RATINGS:**

**No Local Flexibility (NLF)**: This rating indicates that Boards must comply with the federal and state laws, rules, policies, and required procedures set forth in this WD Letter and have no local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to comply. All information with an NLF rating is indicated by “must” or “shall.”

**Local Flexibility (LF)**: This rating indicates that Boards have local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to implement guidance or recommended practices set forth in this WD Letter. All information with an LF rating is indicated by “may” or “recommend.”