

Texas Rising Star 2024 Revisions

*Based on the 2023 Four-Year Review
Commission Approval July 9, 2024*



Texas 
Rising Star

Four-Year Review Timeline (Process)

- ❖ July 2023 – Workgroup created and convenings began
- ❖ August-December 2023 – Workgroup convenings
- ❖ February 2024 – Public Stakeholder Meetings
- ❖ May-June 2024 – Public Comment *(ended 06/17/24)*
- ❖ July 9, 2024 – Commission Approval *(Child Care Rules and Texas Rising Star Revisions)*
- ❖ September 1, 2024 – Child Care Rule Effective Date
- ❖ October 1, 2024 – Texas Rising Star Assessment Tool Implementation



Agenda

Revisions

- Entry Level
- Screening Forms
- Categorical Measures
- Protocols/Processes
- Specialty Programs

Next Steps

Waivers

Reminders



Entry Level Revisions



- Cannot exceed 40 total points (instead of 75 points)
 - High-weighted = 5 points
 - Medium-high-weighted = 3 points
- Most recent 6-months CCR History (instead of 12 months)
- Effective 09/01/24



Screening Revisions Overview

Changes to screening programs' licensing histories:

- New/Entry Level providers: *Initial Screening Form* process
- Star-Level certified providers: *Certified Screening Form* process
- New automated screening process



Revised Initial Screening Form

Initial Review for Licensed Child Care Centers

1. Facility has CCR licensing history for ~~the at least a~~ 12-month period? Yes No

Date of Review:

Review ~~12~~most recent 6-months of CCR licensing history for the subsequent sections

Stop process if "No"

2. On Corrective or Adverse Action with CCR? Yes No

On Corrective Action with Board? Yes No

On Notice of Freeze with TWC? Yes No

Cited for 746.3707 (b-d) by CCR? Yes No

~~Has 15 or more total CCR weighted High and/or Medium-High Deficiencies?~~ Yes No

Stop process if "Yes" for any of the above.

3. CCR Deficiency Review

Facility is unable to be certified as Texas Rising Star if they have received any of the following deficiencies listed below:

745.635 Criminal Convictions or Central Registry Findings – Take Appropriate Action

745.641 Background Checks Requirement – Providing Direct Care

746.1201(4) Responsibilities of Employees and Caregivers – Ensure No Child is Abused, Neglected, or Exploited

746.1201(5) Responsibilities of Employees and Caregivers – Report Suspected Child Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation

~~745.621 Background Checks Requirement~~

~~746.1003 Director Responsibilities~~

~~746.1201(1) Responsibilities of Employees and Caregivers – Demonstrate Competency, Good Judgment, Self-Control~~

~~746.1203(4) Responsibilities of Caregivers – Supervision of Children~~

~~746.1315 First Aid and CPR Requirements~~

~~746.2805 Prohibited Punishments~~

~~746.3805(a) Administering Medication – How to Administer Medication~~

~~746.3805(b) Administering Medication – How to Administer Medication~~

Stop process if any of the above have been received within the previous ~~12~~6-months.

4. Total Points Review

Facility is unable to be Texas Rising Star if they have received more than 25 total points (when reviewing CCR weighted High and/or Medium-High Deficiencies received within the previous 6-months).

Total points received:

Total number of High Deficiencies:

Total points of High Deficiencies (5 points each):

Total number of Medium-High Deficiencies:

Total points of Medium-High Deficiencies (3 points each):

Does the facility have more than 25 total points? Yes No

Stop process if "Yes"

- Still required to have 12 months of history **BUT** only reviewing **most recent 6 months**
- **Removed** 8 specific deficiencies
- **Added** the requirement to have 25 or fewer total points when considering High and Medium-High deficiencies
- **Effective 09/01/2024**



Revised Certified Screening Form

Texas Rising Star-Certified Licensed Child Care Centers	
1.	<p>Facility has CCR licensing history for the 12-month period before the date of the Texas Rising Star monitoring/recertification visit? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date of CCR Review: _____ Review 426-month CCR licensing history for the subsequent sections</p>
2.	<p>On Corrective or Adverse Action with CCR? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No On Corrective Action with Board? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No On Notice of Freeze with TWC? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Cited for 746.3707 (b-d) by CCR? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Has 15 or more than 40 total points (based on CCR weighted High and/or Medium-High Deficiencies)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Has incurred 3rd consecutive probation (any level)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If yes, denote previous probation start dates in last 3 years: _____) Has incurred 5th probation (any level) within last 3 years? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If yes, denote previous probation start dates in last 3 years: _____) Place on suspension if "Yes" for any criterion above.</p>
3.	<p>STAR-LEVEL DROP Facility is dropped one star level for <u>each occurrence</u> if it has received any of the following deficiencies listed below. Two-Star facilities will be placed on suspension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 745.635 Criminal Convictions or Central Registry Findings – Take Appropriate Action <input type="checkbox"/> 745.641 Background Checks Requirement – Providing Direct Care <input type="checkbox"/> 746.1201(4) Responsibilities of Employees and Caregivers – Ensure No Child is Abused, Neglected, or Exploited <input type="checkbox"/> 746.1201(5) Responsibilities of Employees and Caregivers – Report Suspected Child Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation <p>Date star level drop is effective: _____ <i>For any facility on a 6-month star-level reduction, no additional deficiencies denoted in this section can be incurred within that 6-month time frame to be reinstated at the previous certified star level.</i></p>
4.	<p>PROBATION A Facility is placed on Probation A if it has <u>any</u> of the following deficiencies listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 745.621 Background Checks Requirement <input type="checkbox"/> 746.1003(1), (3-6) Director Responsibilities <input type="checkbox"/> 746.1201(1) Responsibilities of Employees and Caregivers – Demonstrate Competency, Good Judgment, Self-Control <input type="checkbox"/> 746.1205(a)(4), 1203(4) Responsibilities of Caregivers – Supervision of Children <input type="checkbox"/> 746.1315 First Aid and CPR Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> 746.1601 Child/Caregiver Ratios <input type="checkbox"/> 746.2805 Prohibited Punishments <input type="checkbox"/> 746.3805(a) Administering Medication – How to Administer Medication <input type="checkbox"/> 746.3805(b) Administering Medication – How to Administer Medication <p><i>If facility is cited for any Probation A deficiencies within the 6-month probation, without exceeding 14 total High and/or Medium-High deficiencies, the facility loses a star level (Two-Star facilities will be placed on suspension) and a second 6-month Probation A is established at the point of discovery. If facility is cited for any Probation A deficiencies within the second 6-month probation, facility will be placed on suspension.</i></p> <p>Date probation is effective: Denote which probation: <input type="checkbox"/> 1st <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd <i>For any facility on a 6-month star-level reduction due to consecutive Probation A, no additional deficiencies denoted in this section can be incurred within that 6-month time frame to be reinstated at the previous certified star level.</i></p>
5.	<p>PROBATION B Facility is placed on Probation B if it has 10–14 total received more than 25 total points (based on CCR weighted High and/or Medium-High deficiencies).</p> <p>Total points received: _____ Total number of High and/or Medium-High Deficiencies: _____ Total points of High Deficiencies (5 points each): _____ Total number of Medium-High Deficiencies: _____ Total points of Medium-High Deficiencies (3 points each): _____</p> <p><i>If any additional CCR weighted High and/or Medium-High deficiencies are incurred but do not exceed 44-40 points total, within this 6-month probation, the facility loses a star level for 6-months (Two-Star facilities will be placed on suspension) and a second 6-month Probation B is established at the point of discovery. If new High and/or Medium-High deficiencies are incurred (not to exceed 40 points total) within the second 6-month probation, facility will be placed on suspension.</i></p> <p>Date probation is effective: Denote which probation: <input type="checkbox"/> 1st <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd</p>

- Most recent **6-months** of CCR history
- **Clarification** of reinstatement for star-level drops
- **Revised** Director Responsibilities standard
- **Added** Child/Caregiver Ratio standard
- **Revised** Supervision standard to align with CCR
- Probation B as a **total points (26-40 points) impact**
- **Effective 09/01/2024**



Automated Screenings

- **Previously screened quarterly for compliance**
- **Effective 09/01/24, will have an automated screening process**
 - **Supports immediate review and action**
 - **Streamlines process for assessors**





Facility Assessment Revisions

Implementation begins 10/01/24



Category 1: Director/Staff Qualifications & Training

Revised Measures

- Split training measures (all programs)
 - Training Plan
 - Training Hours Obtained

- Defined school-age director (School-Age only programs)

- Revised allowable qualifications (all programs)

- Clarified “teaching staff” definition



Category 1: Director/Staff Qualifications & Training

Revised Measures, continued

☐ Added WF Registry participation points-based measure (all programs)

Facility Type	Proposed NEW Measure
All Facilities	<p>P-CTQ-04 STAFF WORKFORCE REGISTRY</p> <p>Staff, not including the staff who holds the required center director account, participate in the Texas Workforce Registry. Participation includes having current education and training hours logged within the account. Administrative staff includes the assistant director, office staff, and curriculum support staff or anyone whose primary role (more than 50%) is supporting the daily office operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score of 0: Only the required center director account is created. • Score of 1: All administrative accounts are created and utilized. • Score of 2: All administrative accounts and at least 25% of total staff accounts are created and utilized. • Score of 3: All administrative accounts and more than 50% of total staff accounts are created and utilized. <p>N/A: for homes with no additional staff.</p>

Category 3: Program Administration

Revisions

- Revised required Parent Policy (S-PE-01) measure to omit duplication and added developmental screening and early intervention support, as well as condensing challenging behaviors policy within
- Revised (new) School-Age specific Parent Orientation measure
- Revised three measures for clarification and changes to School-Age Only
 - P-FI-02 Parent Conferences – n/a for school-age; revised scoring criteria
 - P-FI-03 Parent Events – added “annually”
 - P-PM-04 Teacher Supports – added “child progress monitoring”
- Removed 3 measures:
 - Challenging behaviors (condensed into Parent Policy S-PE-01)
 - Both Child Assessment measures (P-PM-05 and -06)



New Category 3 Measure – Developmental Checklists

NEW Required Structural Measure (Met/Not Met)

Facility Type	Proposed Revised Measure
All Facilities except School Age-Only Programs	<p>DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONE CHECKLISTS</p> <p>The program uses developmental milestone checklists annually (at minimum) to support identifying developmental delays for children ages 0-5 years, makes referrals when necessary, and shares those completed checklists with families. Programs using more comprehensive child progress monitoring tools or checklists can be considered as met.</p> <p>Evidence: Developmental Milestone Checklists (sample completed for each age group served)</p>





Classroom Assessment Revisions

Implementation begins 10/01/24



Category 2: Teacher-Child Interactions

Revisions



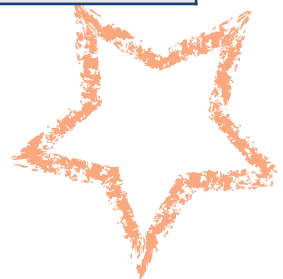
- ❑ Revised 11 measures on scoring criteria for consistency & measures for clarification
- ❑ Removed two duplicative measures
 - ❑ P-SCR-05 &-06



Category 2: Teacher-Child Interactions Revisions (New Measure)

NEW measure related to classrooms utilizing child progress monitoring tools

Age Group	Measure	Score of 0	Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3
Infant, Toddler and Preschool	<i>Classroom uses child progress monitoring tools to guide their instructional planning for the children in their class.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Classroom utilizes informal child progress monitoring tools for observing child progress, but it does not inform instruction.	<input type="checkbox"/> Classroom utilizes informal child progress monitoring tools for observing child progress, and it is used to inform instruction.	<input type="checkbox"/> Classroom uses a formal child progress monitoring tool for observing child progress. Classroom can pair formal with informal tools and either is used to inform instruction.	<input type="checkbox"/> Classroom uses a formal child progress monitoring tool for observing child progress, and it is used to inform instruction. Additionally, a system is in place to support children's transitions between age groups/classrooms and/or into kindergarten.



Category 4: Learning Environments

Revisions



❑ Revised P-OLE-03 to read:

Natural and manufactured equipment and materials motivate children to be physically active and engage in active play (such as balancing, climbing, crawling, pushing/pulling)



Protocol Revisions

- Facility Change Process – effective 09/01/24
 - retaining certification with initial permit (up to 6 months)
 - assessment within 3-months

- National Accreditation Entities Added – effective 09/01/24
 - American Montessori Society (AMS)
 - Association Montessori International/USA (AMI/USA)
 - Middle States Association (MSA)

Already LIVE: CLASS[®] Observations used for Category 2 – recently updated to include school-age classrooms



Specialty Programs Revisions



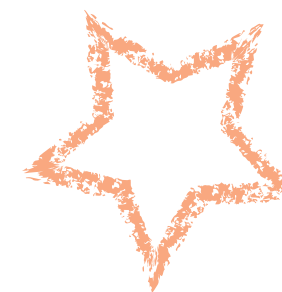
**School-
Age Only**



**Single Skill
After
School**



**Non-
Traditional
Care Only**



Next Steps and Resources

- Attend future webinars or training opportunities (as offered/available)
- Continue working with mentor on new or revised measures (anyone assessed 10/01/24 later will be on revised tools)
- Review the revised tools and Guidelines
- More revised resources to come
 - Category documents
 - Texas Rising Star website



Entry Level Waivers/Exceptions (current)

- **Entry Level designation Extension Waiver** *(up to additional 36 months)*
 - Program fails to be eligible for certification or be certified by Entry Level deadline can request this waiver, via the Board, if they meet one of the following:
 - Care provided for underserved population (infants, special needs, or non-traditional hour)
 - Located within a child care desert
 - Situation outside the program's control (i.e., assessment ready but CAE unable to schedule)
- **CCS Referral Exception**
 - Program fails to be eligible for certification by Entry Level deadline at the 18th month of Entry Level or 9th month of Suspension, no new CCS family referrals
 - Can request an exception, via the Board, if they meet one of the following:
 - Care provided for underserved population (infants, special needs, or non-traditional hour)
 - Located within a child care desert
 - TWC approved due to continuity of care consideration



09/30/24 Deadline – Next Steps

- Use Revised Screening Form 09/01/24
 - If eligible for certification:
 - denote “Assessment Ready” in Engage and complete assessment request form by 09/30/24
 - To support an efficient review and scoring for the assessor, the program **MUST** upload all documents into Engage the assessor would need to score structural measures
 - Board to submit on program’s behalf, an Entry Level designation extension request to TWC indicating request based on criterion of “outside program’s control”
 - If not eligible for certification:
 - determine if the program is eligible to remain CCS based on the Entry Level designation extension waiver
 - If so, Board to submit request on program’s behalf
 - If not, Board will begin process to notify program and families of CCS termination



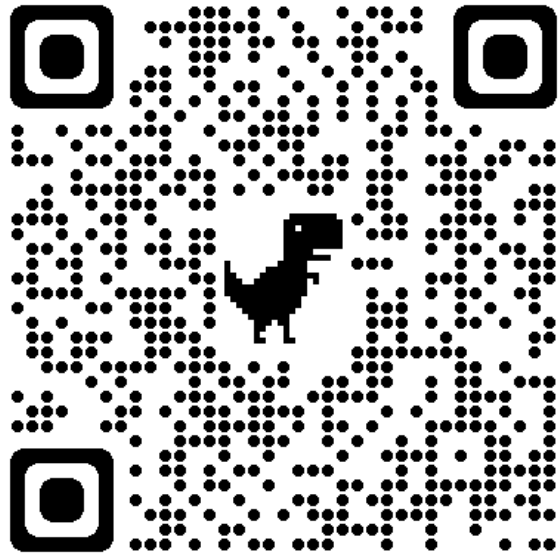
Reminders

- Recertification requests need to be submitted at least three months prior – if due by 09/30/24 submit ASAP
- Ensure accurate data in Engage – review your program’s school management tab / classroom management
- Upload all documents into Engage (preferred) – include classroom schedules and staff roster
- Respond timely to CAE’s scheduling requests and impact notices
 - Two-week windows allow for up to 3 “blackout dates” schedulers will try to honor

Thank you for your patience, understanding and flexibility!



Thank You



Visit:

<https://www.twc.texas.gov/programs/texas-rising-star/2023-workgroup>

