

WHO WE ARE

Maryland EXCELS is the Maryland State Department of Education's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for child care, Head Start, school-age programs, and public Pre-K.

Our mission is to increase access to high-quality care and education across the state and to educate families on choosing quality programs.

ELIGIBILITY

All licensed Child Care Centers (including school-age only, Letter of Compliance and Head Start programs) and registered Family Child Care Homes are eligible to participate in Maryland EXCELS.

Licensed child care programs are **required** to participate in Maryland EXCELS in order to be eligible for Child Care Scholarship reimbursement.



Learn more at
MarylandEXCELS.org

SCAN ME



Contact your regional
Quality Assurance
Specialist to:

- Apply to participate
- Access training, resources, and support
- Discuss next steps for program improvement

SCAN ME



Contact your Program
Coordinator for:

- Assistance with the Maryland EXCELS System
- Feedback on submitted documentation



A COMMITMENT
TO QUALITY

MARYLAND EXCELS

Supporting quality improvement in
child care, Head Start, school-age
programs, and public Pre-K



HOW IT WORKS

Maryland EXCELS provides quality ratings based on meeting the requirements in five content areas:



Licensing and Compliance



Staff Qualifications and Professional Development



Accreditation and Rating Scales



Administrative Policies and Practices



Developmentally-Appropriate Learning and Practice

Using nationally recognized best practices in high-quality education and care, the Maryland EXCELS Standards provide a roadmap for improvement.

We provide guidance, training, and support to programs as they strive to achieve higher quality ratings.


Our Maryland EXCELS Toolkit and tutorials are easy to use for instant help. One-on-one assistance and workgroups are available in every county for personalized support.

ROAD TO QUALITY RATINGS



Quality Rating 1

- Activities support every child's individual needs.
- Family-teacher conferences are offered.




Quality Rating 2

- Children's developmental progress is observed.
- Activities are informed by early learning guidelines.
- Opportunities are offered for families to engage in the program.



Quality Rating 3

- Materials reflect the children's cultures and interests.
- Activities support exploring and developmental growth.
- Healthy meals and snacks are provided.



Quality Rating 4

- Community resources are used and shared with families.
- Continuous engagement with families is offered.
- Activities align with a state-recommended curriculum.
- Children have input in shaping rules and choosing activities.



Quality Rating 5

- Lesson plans and policies are culturally competent.
- Children's developmental growth is consistently observed and assessed.
- Programs demonstrates excellence in quality improvement through accreditation.
- Provider and/or staff are highly qualified through education and experience.

BONUSES

As funds are available, programs receive bonuses for increasing their quality ratings.

EXCELS PAYMENTS

At Quality Ratings 3, 4, and 5, programs receive increased Child Care Scholarship reimbursements of 10-44%.