



Department of  
Job and Family Services

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Cynthia C. Dungey, Director

TO: Step Up To Quality Three-, Four- and Five-star rated programs

FROM: Kara B. Wentz, Deputy Director  
Family Assistance, Office of Family Assistance

DATE: March 5, 2015

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the Ohio Department Job and Family Services (ODJFS) are pleased to announce that beginning August 2015, Ohio's new Early Learning Assessment will be available to all 3-, 4- and 5- star rated programs in Step Up To Quality. The purpose of the Early Learning Assessment is to provide teachers with a tool to track individual children's learning, individualize learning opportunities, plan for intervention, and ensure that all children are on the path for kindergarten readiness. Programs with 3-, 4- or 5-star ratings and programs that receive funding from ODE will be required to assess all preschool children using the new assessment twice per year.

To introduce programs to the Early Learning Assessment, ODE and ODJFS will be hosting a one hour informational webinar on March 23, 2015 at 1:00 PM. The webinar will provide information on the intended purpose and use of the Early Learning Assessment, upcoming training opportunities, and will have a question and answer time available. To sign up for the webinar, please use the following link:

<http://event.onlineseminarsolutions.com/r.htm?e=960305&s=1&k=5B93BB57274524CC1902C3EFFE4638E0>. For those unable to attend the webinar, a recorded version will be posted at [www.earlychildhoodohio.org](http://www.earlychildhoodohio.org)

The new Early Learning Assessment requires the use of an online system called Ready for Kindergarten Online. The regional state support team and child care resource and referral agency staff will be providing teacher trainings beginning in June. Prior to using the Early Learning Assessment, teachers must receive a certificate of successful completion from the training. To obtain the certificate of completion, teachers must participate in 12 hours of training (in-person and/or online).

Optional trainings will be available beginning April 2015 for program administrators to learn how to use the administrative functions of the Ready for Kindergarten Online system. Program administrators will need to upload the program, teacher information and student information into the online system prior to the program's teachers attending an Early Learning Assessment Training.

Additional information for both the teacher and administrator trainings will be shared during the webinar. Programs will also receive updated training information via email and through postings on the Early Childhood Ohio website.

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