

Memorandum

TO: Great Start Readiness Programs

FROM: Great Start to Quality; Early Childhood Investment Corporation

DATE: April 3, 2017

SUBJ: Change in Program Quality Assessment Process for Great Start to Quality

Beginning on April 17, 2017, Great Start Readiness Programs (GSRP) will use the Program Quality Assessment (PQA) Form A scores from observations conducted by Early Childhood Specialists for their Great Start to Quality rating process. This change was made to support providers by not requiring an additional, and sometimes duplicative, assessment visit.

Going forward, GSRPs and Head Start/GSRP Blends will not have the option to select a Great Start to Quality Rater to conduct their PQA. In the near future, GSRP classrooms will default in the Great Start to Quality STARS platform to an Approved Rater for each classroom. For now, programs should always select Approved Rater for GSRP classrooms. Should a GSRP classroom select a GSQ Rater, the Assessment Manager will reset the selection and then contact the person listed as the Primary Quality Contact on the Program Profile to let them know they need to select an Approved Rater for their GSRP classroom(s).

Beginning in July, GSRP classrooms will default to Approved Rated in the STARS platform and no selection will be needed.

To assist in assessing this transition and to better inform the Great Start to Quality rating process, GSQ Assessors will conduct PQAs on a random sample of GSPR programs throughout the year.

To better support Early Childhood Specialists serving as Approved Raters for GSRP programs, they will no longer need to complete the Approved Rater Certification Process.

We appreciate your continued commitment to quality early childhood education. Should you have any questions about Great Start to Quality, please visit our website at www.greatstarttoquality.org or email at greatstarttoquality@ecic4kids.org.