

CONNECTICUT STATEWIDE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Responding to Feedback, Spring 2022

Since its inception in 2013, the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) has worked to build an early childhood system for our state based on continuous improvement across settings. Continuing this work, we are creating a Quality Improvement System (QIS) that integrates state licensing and national accreditation standards to support all early care and education programs, regardless of setting. We have always approached this work with the intention of developing a system that is different from other states and builds on experience. Providers are an essential voice to create a system that really works for CT.

Your Feedback Has Shaped A New System

In Winter 2022, the OEC presented a three-level quality improvement system. We shared initial system ideas with providers through NAEYC-led focus groups, a statewide webinar, a survey, internal and external interactive workgroup conversations, and direct feedback from providers.

24

providers took part in focus groups (both center-based & family child care providers)

243

statewide stakeholders attended an OEC webinar; many more views after the event

225

stakeholders responded to an online survey (64 center-based & 97 family child care)

NUMEROUS

emails and social media inputs were reviewed in OEC workgroup meetings

We are so grateful for providers' engagement in this process and we are adapting our plan in response to your feedback.

A Revised System

This summer, we will launch a revised system focused on supports for all providers.

This system will:

- ◆ Advance quality improvement practices for all programs, regardless of setting or accreditation status.
- ◆ Support sustainability for child care businesses.
- ◆ Offer providers choice in how they engage with quality improvement resources.
- ◆ Position accreditation as beneficial to providers and families, and allow providers choice to participate in the accreditation process.
- ◆ Build on existing OEC infrastructure systems.
- ◆ Be easy to understand and simple to use.

The new system will not rate programs or assign programs to levels. The OEC will support all providers and share information about the benefits of quality care and continuous improvement for children and their families. OEC will provide clear steps and one-to-one connection throughout this process.

This system is still a work in progress. Please watch for future updates on the OEC site:

<https://www.ctoec.org/qis>



Connecticut Office
of Early Childhood