



Star Quality Rater Criteria

To qualify for participation in the Virginia Star Quality Initiative as a Star Quality Rater, the candidate must comply with the following:

Minimum Qualifications

- Have a Bachelor's Degree in early childhood education, early intervention, educational psychology, developmental psychology or a related field. Exceptions to this may be granted based on a candidate's experience and background, and/or commitment towards pursuing a Bachelor's Degree.
- Have strong verbal and written communication skills.
- Have two or more years of experience working in early childhood or a related field.
- Have the ability to be objective and independent in applying the instruments; Raters agree to disclose any conflict of interest* immediately following a program assignment.
- Be trained on the Star Quality instruments: Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), Environment Rating Scales (ERS), and other related training.
- Have the ability to work well both independently and under direction.
- Have transportation and be able to travel in a specified region in Virginia, near the Rater's location.
- Commit to completing a minimum number of classroom observations over a one-year period.
- Commit to serve as a Rater for a minimum of one year.
- Commit to maintaining reliability and consistency in applying the Virginia Star Quality Standard during program observations through annual refresher training and pro-bono inter-rater consistency checks.
- Agree to maintain confidentiality concerning issues and information about children, families, staff and programs.
- Commit to ongoing professional development.
- Have access to the internet and knowledge of web-based applications.

Preferred Qualifications

- Trained with demonstrated reliability in all or some of the CLASS and ERS instruments.
- Have experience conducting observations and/or assessments.
- Have experience working in the early childhood or a related field for at least five years.
- Have experience working with staff in child care programs, social service agencies or schools.
- Knowledge of various regulating authority standards related to early childhood programs (Virginia Standards for Child Day Centers, Head Start, Board of Education, etc.).
- Possess bilingual skills.

Star Quality Rater Criteria (continued)

Provide evidence of

- Negative Tuberculosis screening.
- Written communications skills (Writing Sample).

Maintain approved Star Quality Rater status in the Virginia Star Quality Initiative

- Achieve and maintain appropriate level of technical competence, including inter-rater reliability/consistency, and refresher training, on all relevant instruments (CLASS, ERS).
 - Complete a minimum number of classroom observations over a one-year period as specified in an agreement.
 - Conduct Virginia Star Quality assessments only as scheduled through the Local Coalition and Hub.
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*Raters should recuse themselves from an assignment due to conflict of interest if they: are/were employed by the program; serve(d) as a mentor, consultant, or evaluator in the program; have a close relative who is/was employed by the program or is/was a mentor, consultant, or evaluator there; are or have served on the program's Board of Directors, or have a relative in that position; have a monetary or personal interest in the outcome of the program's Star rating; have a close personal relationship with individuals involved in the program; or have any relationship that might compromise the objectivity of the ratings process.

Virginia's Star Quality Initiative is administered in partnership between the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation and the Office of Early Childhood Development.

Additional information may be found at:
www.smartbeginnings.org/qris or
www.earlychildhood.virginia.gov

