



STARS: Supporting Teachers and Ready Students is an exclusive program from GAR Foundation and the Early Childhood Resource Center (ECRC) designed to provide expert tools and supports to help eligible early childcare centers navigate the state’s quality rating system, Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) and increase their ratings over the next two years. There is no cost for centers to participate in the STARS program.

Eligibility Requirements

- Program must have publicly funded children enrolled
- Program must be located in an Akron City zip code
- Program must be willing to meet all SUTQ standards for becoming highly rated (3-5 stars)

Key Program Elements:

- Expert guidance on how to obtain and increase your SUTQ rating over two years
- Feedback and coaching for your teachers to improve their skills
- CLASS™ Assessments
- Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Awareness
- Program Evaluation
- Child Development Associate Credentialing
- Creative Curriculum Training
- Family and Fatherhood Engagement Strategies
- Cultural Competency Training
- Trauma-informed Care
- Participation in School Readiness Coalitions
- Program Administration Scale Leadership Development
- Training and Use of Transitional Skills Summary
- A stipend as an incentive for program completion

Your center must:

- Be open to intensive coaching
- Be willing to partner with and have outside organizations (trainers, coaches, evaluators) in your center.
- Commit to meeting 1-2 times a week with ECRC staff, who will conduct assessments, train and coach staff, and offer guidance on the SUTQ system.

- Work with Summit Education Initiative to implement the use of the Transition Skills Summary (TSS), which helps teachers identify what a child needs to accomplish before entering kindergarten to ensure they're ready for success
- Work with Summit Education Initiative and an outside evaluator to observe teachers and collect other data as needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the program
- Participate in quarterly School Readiness Coalition meetings, in which individuals who work with young children in schools, preschools, and other settings, along with interested community members, gather to discuss early learning and school readiness
- Implement new parent and father engagement programs and strategies, with support from ECRC staff
- Participate in a leadership development program for your center's management.

Deadlines

Send the completed application via email by the deadline to ljohnson@ecresourcecenter.org or mail to the address below, postmarked no later than Friday, January 4, 2019

Attn: LaShonna Johnson
Early Childhood Resource Center
18 N. Forge Street
Akron, OH 44304

Timeline:

- Centers will be notified by Friday, January 18th Centers may be called before selection for additional questions.
- The STARS project will officially launch in February 2019 and run through February 2021.

Questions?

For questions about the application, please contact LaShonna at 330-903-0762 or via email at ljohnson@ecresourcecenter.org

STARS Application

Please complete all information in this application to the best of your knowledge and return by Friday, January 4, 2019.

Requirements

- Program must have publicly funded children enrolled
- Program must be located in an Akron City zip code
- Program must be willing to meet all SUTQ standards for becoming highly rated (3-5 stars)

Center Contact Information

Director/Owner	
Business Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
County	
Phone	
Emergency Phone	
Fax Number	
Email Address	

Program Information

1. How many publicly funded children are currently enrolled?
2. What is your program's total enrollment/capacity by age?

a. Infant	Enrollment	<input type="text"/>	Capacity	<input type="text"/>
b. Toddler	Enrollment	<input type="text"/>	Capacity	<input type="text"/>
c. Preschool	Enrollment	<input type="text"/>	Capacity	<input type="text"/>
d. School Age	Enrollment	<input type="text"/>	Capacity	<input type="text"/>
3. How many classrooms does your program have in each age group?

a. Infant	Classrooms	<input type="text"/>
b. Toddler	Classrooms	<input type="text"/>
c. Preschool	Classrooms	<input type="text"/>
d. School Age	Classrooms	<input type="text"/>

4. Does your program have teachers who are in need of Child Development Associate (CDA) credential coursework? Yes No

If yes, how many?

5. Does your program have staff who meet SUTQ education requirements? (can we include a link for them to click to read more about the requirements or will it be attached?) Yes No

6. Are you currently a star-rated program? Yes No

7. What is your current star rating? No Star 1

What is your desired star rating? 3 4/5

8. Has your program ever been star rated? Yes No

If yes, what was your rating, and why is the program no longer rated?

9. What are your program's barriers to obtaining your desired star rating? Please use the appropriate SUTQ ratings and progressions for your center, provided in this packet, as guidance to answer this question below.

Learning and Development

Curriculum and Planning:
Child Screening and Assessment:
Interactions and Environment:

Administrative and Leadership Practices

Staff Supports:
Program Administration:
Staff Management:

Staff Qualifications and Professional Development

Staff Education:
Professional Development:

Family and Community Partnerships

Transitions:
Communication and Engagement:
Interactions and Environment:

10. Have you had any areas of noncompliance within the past 3 years that might stop you from obtaining a star rating? Yes No

If yes, please explain:

11. How many points have you accumulated in serious risk and moderate risk non-compliance?

12. Are you willing to enter into a partnership with the Early Childhood Resource Center that requires the following?

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|--|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Become rated or increase rating by the end of year one |
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attend weekly on-site meetings with ECRC staff for assessment, training, coaching, etc |
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Purchase items and/or make changes needed to meet SUTQ standards |
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Work with Summit Education Initiative and others on data collection and analysis |
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Participate in School Readiness Coalitions |
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Implement strategies in parent and father engagement |
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Participate in leadership development program |

13. Are there any additional reasons, not previously stated above, why you or your program may not be able to obtain your desired star rating or fulfill obligations in this program?

Questions?

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Application Submission

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