

Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High-Quality Affordable Child Care

Disclaimer: This working definition of 'high quality' is NOT for public use or public reference. This aspirational, fluid definition is intended to be used as a way for the Commission to cost-out high quality at the highest level. While this definition will help the Commission determine the over-all cost of providing high quality care to all children 0-5, this in no way reflects or is intended to inform policy beyond that.

Definition of High Quality Early Care and Education Program (v. 01.27.2016)

Framework synthesized from Federal Head Start Monitoring Protocol, NAEYC Standards, STARS and NAFCC

High quality early childhood programs in Vermont strive to realize the promise of each child. These programs focus on: Child Health and Safety; Early Care, Education and Child Development; Family and Community Engagement; and Leadership and Management Systems. These programs seek to move up the quality continuum in STARS and to achieve high quality standards as indicated by 5 STARS, Accreditation or Federal Head Start Monitoring.

1. Child Health & Safety

- a. Screening and Referrals: health, developmental and behavioral
- b. Environmental health & safety
- c. Food & nutrition
- d. Assuring child and family access to Health and Dental Care
- e. Healthy Practices and Routines
- f. Appropriate Group Sizes, Ratios and Supervision
- g. Safe Transportation

2. Early Care, Education and Child Development

- a. Relationships and Teaching Practices
 - i. CLASS / teacher-child interactions
 - ii. Pyramid model / EMTSS / MTSS
- b. Curriculum and assessment
- c. Individualization
- d. Services for children with special needs
- e. Cultural and linguistic responsiveness
- f. Transitions and school readiness

3. Family and Community Engagement

- a. Family stability and well-being
- b. Partnerships with Families
- c. Parent-Child Relationships
- d. Parents as Their Child's Educators
- e. Community Partnerships

4. Leadership and management systems

- a. Governance
- b. Fiscal stability and integrity
- c. Human resources
 - i. Credentials, training, professional development
 - ii. Compensation and benefits
 - iii. Practice-based coaching
- d. Facilities, materials and equipment
- e. Enrollment practices