

Frequently Asked Questions State-Purchased Curriculum & Assessment

Below please find the frequently asked questions that have been submitted and prepared as a result of the October 4, 2016 provider communication regarding the State-purchased curricula and assessments. As we continue to work our way through this new initiative our goal is to provide updated information as questions and solutions arise.

For clarification, please note this initiative was established in an effort to move new providers into high quality ratings and reach the Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) program participation goals for 2020 and 2025:

1. Any provider seeking to serve families eligible to receive publicly funded child care (PFCC) must be participating in SUTQ by the year 2020.
2. By the year 2025, any child care center or Type A home provider that will provide services to families eligible to receive PFCC must be highly rated at a 3-, 4- or 5-star rating.

To meet SUTQ standards, programs must obtain a curriculum to obtain a 2-star rating and then must implement that curriculum to move into a 3-star or higher rating. To help defray the cost associated with purchasing a curriculum and assessment, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has purchased two evidence-based curricula with assessments for eligible providers to choose from for the 2016-2017 school year. As a program leader, it is vitally important for you to note that future funding for the procurement of curricula and assessments is not guaranteed. While constructing your upcoming annual budget, please ensure your organization is prepared for any ongoing costs.

Curriculum

1. Which versions of Creative Curriculum & Highscope are available?

Answer: Providers will be eligible to request curricula either from Creative Curriculum or Highscope. The curricula available are outlined below based on setting and age groups served:

Centers:

Infants & Toddlers

Options	Curriculum	Assessment
1	HighScope Tender Care and Early Learning: Supporting Infants and Toddlers in Child Care Settings, 2 nd Edition 2011	COR Advantage 1.5
2	The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers & Twos with Daily Resources, 3 rd Edition with daily resources	Teaching Strategies Gold

Preschool

Options	Curriculum	Assessment
1	Highscope Preschool Curriculum, 2 nd Edition	COR Advantage 1.5
2	The Creative Curriculum for Preschool, 6 th Edition with daily resources	Teaching Strategies Gold

Family Child Care:

Infants & Toddlers

Options	Curriculum	Assessment
1	Highscope Tender Care and Early Learning: Supporting Infants and Toddlers in Child Care Settings 2nd Edition	COR Advantage 1.5
2	The Creative Curriculum® for Family Child Care, Second Edition	Teaching Strategies Gold

Preschool

Options	Curriculum	Assessment
1	Highscope Essentials of Active Learning in Preschool: Getting to Know the HighScope Curriculum, 2nd Edition	COR Advantage 1.5
2	The Creative Curriculum® for Family Child Care, Second Edition	Teaching Strategies Gold

Note: If a Spanish curriculum is needed please email: Curriculum-Request@jfs.ohio.gov
HighScope only offers the Infant & Toddler and Preschool curriculum in Spanish.

2. How many copies of the curriculum is each program eligible for?

Answer: Programs are eligible to receive one curriculum per age group per provider.

3. If a program already has Creative Curriculum or Highscope, are they eligible to receive another copy of the curriculum?

Answer: The goal of this initiative is to remove a barrier to new providers moving into high quality ratings, therefore, as outlined in the October 4, 2016 communication, programs currently using one of the two offered curricula are not eligible to request an additional curriculum.

4. If a program is using an older version of one of the two approved curricula, can the program get a copy of a newer version?

Answer: Not at this time. Funding is limited and program requests with no curriculum will be fulfilled first. Programs requesting an updated version of the curricula will be put on a wait list and evaluated in the spring.

5. Purchasing of curriculum is not a one-time event and must be refreshed regularly. Will the State support the ongoing cost of refreshing curriculum materials?

Answer: The initial scope of this program is limited to start-up costs to obtain curriculum and assessments. ODJFS will make future decisions based upon resource availability and needs of providers moving into the SUTQ rating system.

6. We have the curriculum books, but not the corresponding support products. Can ODJFS provide those missing pieces?

Answer: No. The contracts were not drafted to procure specific components of the curriculum or learning support materials.

- 7. We cannot register for a 3, 4 or a 5 star until we have implemented a curriculum and assessment, but the October 4, 2016 communication states that in order to be eligible for the free curriculum we must have registered for SUTQ rating. Does this mean we have to become a 1- or 2- star before applying for a 3-5 star if we want to access these materials?**

Answer: Yes, that is correct. In order to be eligible to receive the curriculum, you must be participating in SUTQ or registered for any star rating. If you are registered to become a 1-or 2-star rated program, then you are eligible to request a curriculum.

Assessment

- 8. Will the State pay for the assessment costs for all children in the program, or only those receiving publicly funded child care?**

Answer: The State will cover the assessment costs for all publicly funded children in the infant, toddler and preschool classrooms.

- 9. Can a program that is already using one of the curricula request ongoing assessment costs be covered?**

Answer: Yes. Current programs using one of the two curricula can request assessment support for the publicly funded children in the program. The assessment costs will be covered (as long as funding is available) through June 30, 2017, at which time the budget will be reviewed.

Training

- 10. Is the training available for the curriculum and assessment, and is it in-person or online?**

Answer: The training available will cover both the curriculum and assessment. If the provider only requests curriculum assessments, training will be limited to the requested product. The training will start online only, but ODJFS will evaluate the cost efficiency of in-person trainings as requests are evaluated. If in-person trainings are made available, eligible providers will be notified.

- 11. Is there a separate training for administrators on the fidelity or management of the curriculum/assessment?**

Answer: No.

- 12. Is the training Ohio Approved?**

Answer: No. At this time the trainings are not Ohio Approved. However, both vendors are evaluating if this is feasible.