

STARS Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is there a fee to become a STARS for KIDS NOW rated child care provider?

No. There is no fee for providers to become STARS rated.

2. Are there financial incentives for becoming a STARS rated provider?

Yes, depending on the rating and to the extent funds are available.

For more information on financial incentives, [click here](#).

3. When must a child care facility/home have a rating visit completed by a STARS rater?

All child care facilities/homes requesting a STARS rating above a STARS Level 1 must have a rating visit completed by a STARS rater.

4. When can a newly licensed or certified provider participate in STARS?

Newly licensed or certified providers must be licensed or certified six months before they may participate in STARS.

5. How many times may a provider renew a STARS Level 1 rating?

A STARS Level 1 rating may be renewed one time. The program may reapply for the STARS for Kids Now program 6 months after discontinuance.

6. How many times may a provider renew a STARS Level 2 rating?

A STARS Level 2 rating may be renewed three times with an overall Environment Rating Scale (ERS) score of at least 3.0. By the fourth year as a STAR Level 2, the program must attain and maintain an overall ERS score of 4.0.

7. How many times may a STARS Level 3 rating be renewed?

No limit to the number of times a child care provider can be renewed as a Level 2, 3, or 4. For Type II and certified, fourth year renewal of a STARS Level 3 rating requires the Type II director or the certified provider to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) or higher.

8. How long is a STAR rating valid?

- 1-STAR rating – 1 year
- 2-STAR rating – 2 years
- 3-STAR rating – 3 years
- 4-STAR rating – 4 years

9. If a STARS rated program moves, does the program's STARS rating move with the provider to the new address?

No. STARS regulations specify that a change of location requires a new assessment. A STARS rated program that moves must reapply for STARS through the local STAR Quality Coordinator for either a new STARS Level 1 certificate or new rating visit for the new address.

10. If a STARS rated provider receives a notice of non-emergency suspension, would that affect the provider's STARS rating?

If a provider who currently has a STARS rating receives a "Notice of Non-Emergency Suspension", the STARS rating will remain in place until an official suspension takes place. However, if the provider has not been given a STARS rating and deficiencies are discovered, the provider will not receive a STARS rating until all deficiencies have been corrected.

11. If a provider is suspended, does the provider need to reapply for STARS after the suspension has been lifted?

Yes.

12. Can a STARS rating be appealed?

STARS regulations do not permit the appeal of a STAR rating ([922 KAR 2:170, Section 12](#); [922 KAR 2:210, Section 12](#)). For renewal STAR ratings, if the renewal rating is lower than the provider's previous rating, the provider may request an administrative hearing in accordance with [922 KAR 1:320, Section 2\(11\)](#).