

## **Texas Rising Star**

Every four years TWC is required to review the Texas Rising Star program. To help inform the review members of the [2023 Texas Rising Star Four-Year Review Workgroup](#), which included child care program directors, Local Workforce Boards, child care organizations and other state agencies, met over the preceding 6 months. The Workgroup provided critical input and discussion for proposed revisions within Texas Rising Star. Below are highlights of some of the key changes that were recommended; however, all of the Workgroup Recommendations are posted here: [Workgroup Recommendation](#)

### **Initial Certification Screening Form (for new Texas Rising Star providers)**

- The Workgroup recommended revising the Initial Screening Form (for all facility types) to create more consistency and alignment with the process for determining Entry Level designation (ELD). ELD is based upon a calculation of a provider's Child Care Regulation (CCR) high-weighted deficiencies (scored at 5 points each) and medium-high deficiencies (scored at 3 points each), with ELD eligibility based on providers who do not exceed a 75 points threshold.
- These revisions would require eligibility for certification to be based on 4 specific CCR standards (instead of 12) that providers must not have been cited for in the past 12 months and for providers to not exceed 50 points total when calculating high- and medium-high-deficiencies.
- To view these revisions as track changes, click here: [DRAFT Revised Initial Screening](#)

### **Certified Screening Form (for current Texas Rising Star providers)**

- The Workgroup recommended revising the Certified Screening Form (for all facility types) specific to Probation B to create more consistency and alignment with the drafted revised Initial Screening Form; thus, providers that incur 51 - 75 points total when calculating high- and medium-high-deficiencies will be placed on Probation B. Providers exceeding 75 points will continue to be placed on suspension status.
- The Workgroup also recommended adding a new CCR standard specific to Child/Caregiver ratios.
- To view these revisions as track changes, click here: [DRAFT Revised Certified Screening](#)

### **Changes to Texas Rising Star Process for Reviewing CCR Deficiencies**

- The Workgroup recommended implementing a real-time, automated process for reviewing a provider's continued compliance with CCR and allow for a timelier implementation of impacts, instead of the current quarterly review. This automated process would notify the assessors immediately when a provider has incurred a CCR deficiency. Assessors will continue to review the deficiency/deficiencies and determine any potential Texas Rising Star impacts based upon the applicable Screening Form.

### **Changes to Texas Rising Star Process for Facility Changes**

- Currently, Texas Rising Star requires programs to have a full permit from CCR throughout their certification; thus, certified providers who undergo a facility changes that results in CCR issuing an initial permit results in the suspension of certification status.
- The Workgroup recommended that revising this process to allow the certified program to retain their Texas Rising Star certification for up to six months following the change. These programs must be reassessed within three months of the change and must obtain a full permit within six months of the change to continue to retain their certification.

Stakeholders may provide additional feedback about the Texas Rising Star program and these proposed revisions by emailing TWC at [TRS4YearReview@twc.texas.gov](mailto:TRS4YearReview@twc.texas.gov).