



Alternate Pathways to STARS Designation - Alternative pathway options apply to individual program locations

Performance Standard	Evidence / Documentation	STAR Level
Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) Accreditation plus full DHS Certificate of Compliance or PDE private academic license	Accreditation Certificate (5 year), electronic database listing and by calling or emailing ACSI (no annual letter issued)	STAR 3
Head Start / Early Head Start Program (HS/EHS) grantees in substantial compliance with no deficiencies.	Letter or electronic database listing and, as applicable, Annual Report	STAR 4
Montessori Recognition (AMI) or Accreditation (AMS) by: Association Montessori Internationale (AMI/USA) Recognition or American Montessori Society (AMS) Accreditation plus full DHS Certificate of Compliance or PDE private academic license	Certificate of Accreditation from AMS (issued every August) and by calling or emailing AMS Certificate of Recognition and annual letter from AMI	STAR 4
National Association of Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation plus full DHS Certificate of Compliance or PDE private academic license	Accreditation Certificate (5 year) or electronic database listing and NAEYC Annual Report	STAR 4
National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) Accreditation plus full DHS Certificate of Compliance or PDE private academic license	Accreditation Certificate (3 Year) or electronic database listing and NAFCC Annual Report	STAR 4
National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA) plus full DHS Certificate of Compliance or PDE private academic license	Accreditation Certificate (3 Year) or electronic database listing and, NECPA Annual Report	STAR 4
Out of School Time (OST) Only Providers	Accreditation Certificate or electronic database listing and by calling or emailing COA (COA does not issue annual letters)	STAR 4
School Age Child Care (SACC) Accreditation through Council of Accreditation (COA) plus full DHS Certificate of Compliance, as appropriate	Designation Certificate or electronic database listing and, as applicable 21CCLC Annual Report	STAR 4
Compliant 21st Century Community Learning Centers		STAR 4