

PA NAP SACC and Keystone STARS
Performance Standards/Bonus Points Allocation

Keystone STARS is a program of Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). Keystone STARS has four primary goals:

- To improve the quality of early care and education;
- To support early care and education providers in meeting their quality improvement goals;
- To recognize programs for continuous quality improvement and meeting higher quality standards; and
- To provide families a way to choose a quality early care and education program.

OCDEL's Keystone STARS Program supports all early care and education programs to improve program quality and encourages programs to think about the Keystone STARS Performance Standards as a tool to support continuous quality improvement (CQI) that impacts services to children and families.

The revised Keystone STARS Performance Standards are intended to support programs in developing a meaningful, individualized Continuous Quality Improvement Plan (CQI Plan). They were written to be respectful of the broad diversity of early care and education providers in Pennsylvania.

The Performance Standards are grouped into four levels: STAR 1 (Certification Compliance), STAR 2 (Programs at this level must address a group of required quality standards), STAR 3, and STAR 4 (Programs at these levels earn points by choosing from a set of recommended quality standards).

The updated [2018-2019 STARS Performance Standards](#), effective July 1, contain two areas that align with the Pennsylvania Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (PA NAP SACC) Continuous Quality Improvement Process.

STAR 3 and 4 programs, or STAR 2 programs working toward levels 3 or 4, who successfully participate in the PA NAP SACC process may be eligible for the following:

Bonus Point Activity: Currently, four specific bonus point activities are included in the revised standards for STAR 3 and 4 programs, or STAR 2 programs working toward levels 3 or 4. The PA NAP SACC process is aligned with one of those activities:

Program participates in an organized effort to promote nutritional health for children. (Example: farm to early learning, obesity prevention activities, food security initiatives) (2 points)

The bonus point allocation for this activity can only be applied to the Partnerships with Families and Communities Performance Standard. The 2 bonus points **DO** count toward the percentage of points required in the Partnerships with Families and Communities category.

PA NAP SACC participants are also eligible to be linked with a Child Care Health Consultant, who provides on-site support in the area of nutrition and physical activity policy development. If a program is linked with a Child Care Health Consultant and participates in those visits, they would also be eligible for points related to the following standard:

Standard LM.3.4.10: Program utilizes a licensed or certified health professional or health care consultant to establish and maintain health policies above those required by certification. (3 points)

Process for submitting documentation/evidence.

PA NAP SACC participants are encouraged to keep a folder of all project-related documents, so that when the time comes, they are able to demonstrate work completed as well as outcomes. To assist PA NAP SACC participants, a checklist of recommended evidence/documentation is included on the website's "Orientation" tab, found at www.panapsacc.org. Programs linked with a Child Care Health Consultant will be provided with a copy of the program/consultant work agreement upon completion of the project.

Programs should be prepared to submit this documentation/evidence related to quality indicator LM.3.4.10 or the Bonus Points activity to their Quality Coach at time of their designation visit.