

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

Pennsylvania's Quality Rating and Improvement System, 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.

Keystone STARS has been refined so that it is more efficient for providers and more effective at improving child outcomes. The revised Keystone STARS Performance Standards are intended to support your program 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 Pennsylvania Nutrition and Physical Self-Assessment for Child Care (PA NAP SACC) CQI process satisfies the performance standards and/or bonus point requirements related to:

- **Standard LM.3.4.14** *Program utilizes a health care consultant to establish and maintain health policies above those required by certification.*
  - A copy of the program's work agreement with a health care consultant must be submitted as evidence/documentation.
- **Bonus Points Allocation - specific to STARS 3 and 4 sites only:** *Program participates in an organized effort to promote nutritional health for children (example: farm to preschool, obesity prevention activities, food security initiatives)*
  - Evidence/Documentation requirements for this area: Keystone STARS will review the evidence that providers submit related to a specific standard or bonus point area, and offer providers the opportunity to clarify information if needed. If a provider is participating in the PA NAP SACC, they will be eligible to receive a bonus point allocation if they are able to show adequate evidence of participation in an organized effort to promote nutritional health for children. We are encouraging PA NAP SACC participants 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, we have developed a checklist of evidence/documentation that we recommend they collect and have added it to the website's "Orientation" tab.

To learn more about the Keystone STARS re-visioning process, visit the Pennsylvania Early Learning Keys to Quality at this link -

[https://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=Refining\\_STARS](https://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=Refining_STARS)

From this page, you will be able to access the new Keystone STARS Performance Standards, Program Manual, Webinar recordings, and more.