

Texas Rising Star Guidelines Revision Discussion Paper

1 **Background**

2 The Texas Workforce Commission’s (TWC) three-member Commission (Commission) establishes [rules](#)
3 to administer the Texas Rising Star program, including guidelines for rating a child care provider for
4 Texas Rising Star certification and designation of an Entry Level, and requiring that the Commission
5 adopt the Texas Rising Star Guidelines in an open meeting.
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7 The Texas Rising Star Guidelines describe measures for Texas Rising Star certification, specify the
8 scoring methodology and scoring thresholds, and describe the process for designating providers at the
9 Entry Level. Based on recent legislation, program improvements, and changes to [§809.130](#), revisions to
10 the guidelines are needed. A summary of changes is included in Attachment A. Additionally, two
11 substantive changes are detailed below.
12

13 **Issue: Substantive Guideline Changes**

14 *Voluntary Participation in Mentoring*

15 With the passage House Bill 2607 (87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session), participation in the Texas
16 Rising Star program is now mandatory for all Child Care Services (CCS) providers. Engaging with a
17 Texas Rising Star mentor is a key component of the program, but local Boards and providers have noted
18 that not all programs want or need mentoring services in order to attain or maintain higher levels of
19 quality.
20

21 The proposed guideline revisions include new guidance for Boards on entering into CCS and Texas
22 Rising Star agreements with providers and allows providers to opt out of receiving mentoring services.
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24

25 *Termination of a Provider’s Agreement*

26 With the implementation of HB 2607 as well as other rule amendments which streamline CCS across the
27 state, staff identified the need to standardize processes for involuntary termination of a provider’s CCS
28 agreement.
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30 The proposed guideline revisions include new guidance for Boards on terminating a provider’s CCS
31 Provider Agreement and Mentoring Agreement. These changes are intended to ensure provider
32 requirements are implemented consistently and equitably across the state.
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34 **Decision Point**

35 Staff recommends approval of the proposed revisions to the Texas Rising Star Guidelines for publication
36 and distribution and authorizing staff to make minor, non-substantive edits as needed.
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1 Revised Sections

- 2 • Historical Perspective: Revised last bullet regarding recent rule changes and Entry Level designation
- 3 implementation
- 4 • System for Progressive Quality Improvement: changed Pre-Star to Entry Level (throughout
- 5 document) and updates regarding required levels of maximum reimbursement rates
- 6 • Texas Rising Star Roles: Updated links to rule reference as applicable; added note regarding
- 7 assessors remaining at the Board until the assessment entity has been procured.
- 8 • Star-Level Drop Deficiencies: Revised loss of certification to suspension status (throughout
- 9 document)
- 10 • Steps to Certification: Revised Steps 1 and 2 to match order of needed completion and addition of
- 11 required submission of Continuous Quality Improvement Plan (CQIP) for those electing to not have
- 12 a mentor
- 13 • DoD Programs: Added guidance regarding the Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood
- 14 (MCCYN) - PLUS program and addition of required submission of CQIP for those electing to not
- 15 have a mentor
- 16 • Types of Program Assessments: Added reminder guidance about effective date of certification being
- 17 the 1st of the following month. Added a note regarding reconsiderations remaining at the Board until
- 18 the assessment entity has been procured.
- 19 • Texas Workforce Registry: Added guidance requiring programs not working with a mentor to still
- 20 create a center director account
- 21 • Section 4: Continuous Quality Improvement: Added guidance on how to create a CQIP for programs
- 22 choosing not to have mentor
- 23 • Section 4: Continuous Quality Improvement – added guidance in Service Improvement Agreement
- 24 and Texas Rising Star Probation topics on requirement to update a self-developed CQIP
- 25 • Section 4: Continuous Quality Improvement – Losing a Star Level and Texas Rising Star Suspension
- 26 Status: Revised title and provided updated guidance regarding suspension status
- 27 • Table 4.1 and 4.2: Impact of Deficiencies: Revised loss of certification to suspension status; changed
- 28 reapply to request an assessment or reassessed, as applicable

30 New Sections

- 31 • Child Care Services (CCS): Added to provide an overview of the CCS program due to requirement
- 32 of participation
- 33 • Entry Level Designation: Added to provide guidance on this new designation and its requirements,
- 34 to include a quick reference timeline for current CCS and new CCS child care programs
- 35 • Logo and Outreach Materials: Added to provide guidance on use of the new logo and branding
- 36 materials
- 37 • Facility Changes: Added guidance regarding facility changes resulting in an initial permit to allow
- 38 them to recertify once a full permit is issued without 12-months of child care licensing history,
- 39 pending other eligibility requirements are met
- 40 • Continuous Quality Improvement: Added topic on self-developed CQIPs to provide guidance on
- 41 how to create a CQIP for programs choosing not to have mentor

43 References and Forms:

- 44 • Updated “Application” (now known as “Texas Rising Star Certification Request”); updated Certified
- 45 Screening forms (for all facility types) and Impacts Notice Form regarding suspension status; and
- 46 updated Facility Changes Rubric to clarify assessment procedures for facility moves that have new
- 47 classrooms and teachers