PEIC Program Quality Workgroup Program Quality Matrix

Program Quality Indicator	<u>NIEER</u> <u>Benchmarks for</u> <u>High Quality</u>	<u>NAEYC Program</u> <u>Standards</u>	<u>Head Start</u> <u>Performance</u> <u>Standards</u>	Private regulated center-based programs	Private regulated home- based programs	School-based programs	Act 76 Opportunities
What are the various indicators of prek program quality?	How does NIEER define benchmarks for high quality prek programs?	How does NAEYC define standards for high quality prek programs?	How does Head Start define standards for high quality prek programs?	What are VT's current UPK quality standards (Act 166 Law) for private regulated center-based programs?	What are VT's current UPK quality standards (Act 166 Law) for private regulated home-based programs?	What are VT's current UPK quality standards (Act 166 Law) for school-based programs?	What opportunities do we have to make recommendations for program quality?
Early Learning and Development Standards	Comprehensive Supported Culturally sensitive Aligned with state infant & toddler and K–3 or college & career ready standards Aligned w/ child assessments	Implements a curriculum that is consistent with its goals for children Promotes learning and development in each of the following areas: social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive.	 Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (HSELOF) to support development and growth. HSELOF is one of the tools used to create VELS Inclusion: Children must be prioritized for enrollment based on need Ensure staff are familiar with the ethnic backgrounds and heritage of the children they serve and are able to serve and communicate with children to the extent possible 	 Vermont Early Learning Standards (VELS) are a framework for curriculum & instruction that cover development and growth for birth-3rd grade VELS align with: NAEYC's Developmentally Appropriate Practice Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework K-3 Common Core State Standards for English LA and Math, Next Generation Science Standards VT's Grade Level Expectations Early MTSS Framework & Pyramid Model of Practices 	 Vermont Early Learning Standards (VELS) are a framework for curriculum & instruction that cover development and growth for birth-3rd grade VELS align with: NAEYC's Developmentally Appropriate Practice Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework K-3 Common Core State Standards for English LA and Math, Next Generation Science Standards VT's Grade Level Expectations Pyramid Model Framework 	 Vermont Early Learning Standards (VELS) are a framework for curriculum & instruction that cover development and growth for birth-3rd grade VELS align with: NAEYC's Developmentally Appropriate Practice Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework K-3 Common Core State Standards for English LA and Math, Next Generation Science Standards VT's Grade Level Expectations Pyramid Model Framework 	Additional training at director/leadership level in culturally responsive practices. Field requests for professional development around reading, using, and designing curriculum usage on the VELS.

	 If a majority of children in a classroom speak the same language, at least one staff member must speak the language. Staff, consultants, contractors and volunteers must respect and promote the unique identity of each child and family and do not stereotype on any basis, including gender, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, disability, sexual orientation or family Must provide LRE for children with disabilities and ensure they are fully participating Must coordinate SpEd services with LEA AOE prequalification requires attestation of inclusion of children with disabilities 	 TSG Assessment required for UPK funding Early MTSS Framework & Pyramid Model of Practices Division of Early Childhood (DEC) recommended practices Approved by VT State Board of Education, 2015 Integrated into AOE Education Quality Standards STARS Quality Standards include: Adult-child interaction Family & youth engagement Responsive practices Inclusion: AOE prequalification requires attestation of inclusion of children with disabilities CDD licensing requires nondiscrimination agreement 	 TSG Assessment required for UPK funding Early MTSS Framework & Pyramid Model of Practices Division of Early Childhood (DEC) recommended practices Approved by VT State Board of Education, 2015 Integrated into AOE Education Quality Standards STARS Quality Standards include: Adult-child interaction Family & youth engagement Responsive practices Inclusion: AOE prequalification requires attestation of inclusion of children with disabilities CDD licensing requires nondiscrimination agreement 		Co to a Ind Na Div (DE
--	--	---	---	--	---------------------------------------

Commented [1]: Meg checking with Tammy on if/how to add: Early Care and Education Environment Indicators for High Quality Inclusion (ECTA and National partners), Division of Early Childhood Recommended Practices (DEC) - for mixed delivery systems

Curriculum Supports	Approval process for selecting curricula Supports in place for curriculum implementation	Uses developmentally, culturally & linguistically appropriate and effective teaching approaches that enhance each child's learning and development in the context of the curriculum goals.	 CDD licensing requires nondiscriminatio n agreement Programs must use research-based early childhood education curriculum, including curricular enhancements. Based on scientifically valid research and has standardized training procedures & materials to support implementation Aligned with Wark of the search 	VT agencies do not mandate or recommend curriculum for prek. AOE does require UPK programs to align with VELS & state how on prequalification application and renewal. VELS aligns with NAEYC Developmentally Appropriate Practices, Head Start Standards, and (K-3) Common Core, Next Gen Science, and VT Grade Level Expectations.	VT agencies do not mandate or recommend curriculum for prek. AOE does require UPK programs to align with VELS & state how on prequalification application and renewal. VELS aligns with NAEYC Developmentally Appropriate Practices, Head Start Standards, and (K-3) Common Core, Next Gen Science, and VT Grade Level Expectations.	VT agencies do not mandate or recommend curriculum for prek. AOE does require UPK programs to align with VELS & state how on prequalification application and renewal. VELS aligns with NAEYC Developmentally Appropriate Practices, Head Start Standards, and (K-3) Common Core, Next Gen Science, and VT Grade Level Expectations.	Do we want a standardized curriculum? How would we pay for it? Would be difficult to have the state mandate a curriculum - esp too narrow. AOE & CDD are currently providing PD training & coaching re: Early MTSS Districts working on early learning standards & alignment w/ 3rd + Want to focus on collaboration & alignment across prek-K
			HSELOF Has an organized scope & sequence with plans & materials for learning experiences based on dev progressions & how kids learn Lesson Plans must Use curriculum with fidelity Individualize for each child in the classroom				Focus on alignment thru VELS Don't have a required K- 12 curric, but standards are the focus
Teacher Preparation	Lead teacher must have a BA at minimum Assistant teacher must have a CDA or equivalent at minimum	The program employs and supports a teaching and administrative staff that have the qualifications, knowledge, and professional commitment	No less than 50% of teachers must have a BA in ECE, CD, or equivalent	AOE licensed teacher on site (not necessarily teaching) during UPK hours for each student's UPK hours enrolled. Ie: if students attend differing days or hours the UPK	AOE licensed teacher as mentor >3 hours/week, or owner as licensed teacher, or contract with licensed teacher for the UPK hours/week.	Lead teacher in each UPK classroom AOE Licensed Early Childhood Educator or Early Childhood Special Educator	Certificate, licensed AOE educators in all prek environment Includes alternate route to certification to get there

		necessary to promote children's learning and development and to support families' diverse needs and interests.	All teachers must have at least an AA in ECE, CD, or equivalent Assistant teachers (paraeducators) must have at least a preschool CDA Additional program staff must meet CDD & HS requirements for their positions.	funded hours must align with the teacher hours. Additional program staff must meet CDD requirements for their positions.	If licensed FCCH, additional staff must meet CDD licensing requirements.	Support staff must meet SU/SD determined requirements (usually are paraeducator standards) and CDD licensing requirements.	Ensure that alternate routes to certification are funded - not sustainable if they are grant funded Agreement that we want a prepared workforce and indiv. Accountability - highly qualified, well educated teachers leading classrooms - Question re: endorsement vs. degree (w/ AOE endorsement - ECE 3)		
Teacher specialized training	Lead teacher must have specialized training in a pre-K area	Teaching staff have educational qualifications and specialized knowledge about young children and early childhood development	Coaching provided to all teachers that could benefit	ECE, CD, ECE SpEd All staff must meet CDD requirements as defined in CC licensing regulations.	ECE, CD, ECE SpEd All staff must meet CDD requirements as defined in CC licensing regulations.	ECE, CD, ECE SpEd All staff must meet CDD requirements as defined in CC licensing regulations.	WHat does specialized training in a prek area mean		Commented [3]: Question from Tammy - what is the specialize training - Fundamentals? Commented [2]: In VT licensed teacher for UPK must have license in Early Education or Early Childhood
Staff professional development	Teacher and assistant teacher must receive at least 15 hours/year of in- service professional development and training Individualized annual professional development plans & coaching	Program makes provisions for ongoing staff development, including orientations for new staff and opportunities for continuing education Teaching staff have training in the program's curriculum and work as a teaching team	AOE licensed teachers must complete 45 hours of professional development in 3 years if Level 1 or 90 hours of professional development if Level 2 (in 5 years) Teachers and TAs are provided with all mandatory trainings and at least 16 hours of professional development per year All staff are provided 3 hours per week (as scheduling allows) to complete college coursework	AOE licensed teachers must complete 45 hours of professional development in 3 years if Level 1 or 90 hours of professional development if Level 2 (in 5 years) Assistants: 15 hours/ year Licensed teacher is not required to do Individual Professional Development plan- all other staff required. Must have copy of license and transcript on file with CDD.	AOE licensed teachers must complete 45 hours of professional development in 3 years if Level 1 or 90 hours of professional development if Level 2 (in 5 years) Assistants: 15 hours/ year Licensed teacher is not required to do Individual Professional Development plan- all other staff required. Must have copy of license and transcript on file with CDD.	AOE licensed teachers must complete 45 hours of professional development in 3 years if Level 1 or 90 hours of professional development if Level 2 (in 5 years) (can be built into district PD but this vaires by district) Assistants: 15 hours/ year Coaching if required by individual SU/SD not a state requirement. Licensed teacher is not required under AOE or CDD to do Individual	AOE more involved in PD (would like to be able to provide PD but it's not funded/within capacity)- ensure that AOE is too involved with what has to happen - want flexibility within districts If oversight from AOE, need for approval from standards board like other educators Build internal capacity for leadership - coaches to support quality across field Current inconsistencies across district & partner sites - differs by site - create greater consistency across sites	have license in Early Educatio Special Education. Endorsem license endorsements are ava pk, pk-3rd grade or early child 6years)	Special Education. Endorsement criteria found here. 3 license endorsements are available to meet this: birth- pk, pk-3rd grade or early childhood special ed (birth- 6years) Commented [4]: Add that PD is provided through district PD days (unlike PD for community-based

			All employees have an Independent Professional Development Plan			Professional Development plan- all other staff required. Must have copy of license and transcript on file with CDD. All non licensed staff are required to complete Individual Professional Development Plans (under CDD regulations). Licensed teachers may be required to write if part of teacher evaluation or district structure.	(at what cost - who pays for PD for non-district providers? Can't mandate professional learning and hard to coordinate PD schedules (program closures, etc)	
Maximum class size	20 students or fewer	NAEYC maximum class size for preschool is 2 <mark>0.</mark>	20 students or fewer for PreK	20 students or fewer	Various depending on ages present. Charts on pages 74-79 Childcare <u>Regulations</u>	20 students or fewer		Commented [5]: @molovermont@gmail.com I don't know if it's good to add NAEYC standards for K for discussion 1:12 (A:C ratio), max class size 24.
Staff-child ratio **These are class sizes for children who are all 3. If the classroom has not yet 3s in the mix the ratio drops.	Lowest acceptable ratio of staff to children in classroom (e.g., maximum number of students per teacher) must be 1:10 or better	1:10	1:10 for PreK	1:10	Various depending on ages present. Charts on <u>pages 74-79 Childcare</u> <u>Regulations</u>	1:10		
Health	Required screenings & referrals for Vision, hearing, health	Promotes the nutrition and health of children and protects children and staff from illness	 Within 30 days of enrollment: Determine whether child has a PCP, dentist & health insurance Help them get PCP, dentist & 	 CDD Regulations require record of annual physical & health history, including: Name & telephone of the child's primary health care and dental care providers Description of any special medical, 	 CDD Regulations require record of annual physical & health history, including: Name & telephone of the child's primary health care and dental care providers Description of any special medical, 	 SU/SD Policies for enrollment CDD Regulations require record of annual physical & health history, including: Name & telephone of the child's primary 		

	 insurance, if needed Within 45 days of enrollment: Perform vision & hearing screenings Make referral for any identified needs and assist family to get to specialist Identify child's nutrition needs Within 90 days of enrollment: Ensure child is up to date with immunizations, well child visits, & dental visits Ongoing: Assist parents to maintain well child & dental visits Periodic observations to ID new developmental, medical, oral, or mental health concerns Facilitate follow up care for any identified needs Create & follow Individualized Health Plans for children with special health needs Assist children to get needed 	emotional or educational needs of the child Written authorization from the parent for the program to be able to obtain emergency medical care Child's immunization record or Vermont Department of Health approved exemption document	health care and dental care providers Description of any special medical, developmental, emotional or educational needs of the child Written authorization from the parent for the program to be able to obtain emergency medical care Child's immunization record or Vermont Department of Health approved exemption document
--	--	--	--

	adaptive
	equipment
	Nutrition:
	Nutrition
	services that
	meet the
	nutritional needs
	of each child &
	meet USDA
	requirements
	 Programs <6hrs,
	provide ¹ / ₃ to ¹ / ₂
	of daily nutrition
	 Programs 6 hrs
	• Programs o mis
	or more, provide
	1/2 to 2/3 of daily
	nutrition
	 Assist families to
	access WIC, 3-
	squares, and
	food shelves
	Provide mental health
	consultants to:
	• Support
	children/families
	with MH needs
	Provide
	consultation for
	HS staff
	 Assist access to
	mental health
	interventions

Continuous Quality Improvement System	Systematic structured observations of classroom quality Information collected is used for classroom/ program improvement at the state and local levels	Informed by ongoing systematic, formal & informal assessment approaches to provide information on children's learning and development Assessments occur within the context of reciprocal communications with families and with sensitivity to the cultural contexts in which children develop	Annual program self- assessment involving community partners. Internal data and information on community need are evaluated and used to determine shifts in programming for the coming year, as well as any compliance aspects to make a focus for the coming year, as well as any compliance aspects to make a focus for the coming year. Data used for annual program improvement • Program Information Report (PIR), a Head Start data base which collects copious information • Internal data on at least child assessment, professional development, and family engagement • Community data • Classroom observations (see below) Year-round improvement • Data must be aggregated, analyzed, and compared to identify risk and inform strategies	 Data used for program improvement Newly built into STARS system 7/2023 not otherwise required Exclusionary Data 	 STARS quality definition: 3 (with approved plan) 4 or 5 STARS to qualify for UPK AOE ACIS Monitoring System Ensures compliance with UPK requirements Promotes high quality for each and every child Promotes equitable access to high quality PreK education Focuses on continuous improvement Structured classroom observations Annual site visits from CDD Biennial TSG developmental assessment through AOE Adult-child interaction assessment through CLASS as part of STARS initial and 3 year renewal Data used for program improvement Newly built into STARS system 7/2023 not otherwise required Exclusionary Data collected by AOE 	 STARS quality definition: 3 (with approved plan) 4 or 5 STARS to qualify for UPK AOE ACIS Monitoring System Ensures compliance with UPK requirements Promotes high quality for each and every child Promotes equitable access to high quality preK education Focuses on continuous improvement Structured classroom observations Annual site visits from CDD Biennial TSG developmental assessment through AOE Adult-child interaction assessment through CLASS as part of STARS initial and 3 year renewal Data used for program improvement Newly built into STARS system 7/2023 not otherwise required by state. May be 	Assessment tools are accessible to programs and teachers have ongoing training to support it State-hosted, formal TSG training to improve data quality and collection AOE capacity to conduct ongoing classroom assessments (outside of disciplinary assessment) Question: how does QRIS work across private & public settings. Should this look like how AOE engages with other grades? SU/SD more • Quality and progress - local assessments for younger grades but varies by district, sometimes by school, so not a recommendation • Prek director ensured consistency • Opportunity to make more connections across settings rather than separate reuqirements Responsibility for quality monitoring. How does this relate to STARS?	Co HS rec
			Structured Classroom Observations	• Exclusionary Data collected by AOE	• Exclusionary Data collected by AOE	by state. May be		

Commented [6]: I don't know where else to add but HS requires 3x year TSG assessment as federal requirement

	 Child Data Research-based developmental standardized screening within 45 days of enrollment for development, behavior, motor, language, social, cognitive, and emotional skills Child outcomes (TSG) evaluated at least 3 x/year; data must break out subgroups 	 AOE TSGold data for progress monitoring of children and educator practice Child data points: ASQ ASQ SE TSG ICP AOE TSGold data for progress monitoring of children and educator practice Child data points: ASQ ASQ SE TSG ICP AOE TSGold data for progress monitoring of children and educator practice Child data points: ASQ ASQ SE TSG ICP AOE TSGold data for progress monitoring of children and educator practice Child data points: ASQ SE TSG ICP 	required by individual SU/SD Exclusionary Data collected by AOE AOE TSGold data for progress monitoring of children and educator practice Child data points ASQ ASQ SE TSG ICP	Child Care licensing for PK4) What capacity & funding would AOE need to support this work across settings (currently LEAS need to find funding for additional TSG support)
--	---	---	--	---

Safety	N/A	Facility is designed so that staff can supervise	Implement practices in "Caring for our Children"	CDD <u>licensing</u> requirements include all	CDD <u>licensing</u> <u>requirements</u> include all	CDD <u>licensing</u> requirements include all	
		all children by sight &	0	the NAEYC noted.	the NAEYC noted.	the NAEYC noted.	
		sound.	Daily, monthly, and				
			yearly safety checklists	In addition to NAEYC	In addition to NAEYC	* Public schools are	
		Program has necessary	y y	listed- all programs are	listed- all programs are	exempt from a few CDD	
		furnishings, such as	All staff with regular	inspected by Dept of Fire	inspected by Dept of Fire	licensing requirements	
		hand-washing sinks,	child contact trained in	Safety, complete lead	Safety, complete lead	focused on admin	
		child-size chairs and	safety procedures in all	testing (water and paint),	testing (water and paint),	documentation. None of	
		tables, and cots, cribs,	state, local, federal and	and are inspected by CDD	and are inspected by CDD	the exemptions are about	
		beds, or sleeping pads	program-developed	staff.	staff.	health and safety.	
		beus, or steeping puus	health, safety, & child	Staff.	Stan	neurin una sarety.	
		A variety of materials and	care requirements to			In addition to NAEYC	
		equipment appropriate	ensure safety			listed- all programs are	
		for children's ages, skills				inspected by Dept of Fire	
		and abilities is available	Create an Emergency			Safety, complete lead	
		and kept clean, safe, and	Response Plan updated			testing (water and paint),	
		in good repair	yearly that covers:			and are inspected by CDD	
		in good repair	 Emergencies 			staff.	
		Outdoor play areas have	 Contagious 			Stuff	
		fences or natural barriers	disease			Additionally abide by	
		that prevent access to	 Fire prevention 			AOE Pk-12 facilities	
		streets & other hazards.	& response			requirements.	
		streets & other nazarus.	 Med 			requirements.	
		First-aid kits. fire	administration			Public school require	
		extinguishers, fire alarms,	 Systems to 			additional Finger printing	
		and other safety	ensure children			through AOE licensing.	Commented [7]: How does this compare to finger
		equipment are installed	are only released			un ough non neensnig.	 printing in community-based programs?
		and available	to authorized				printing in community-based programs?
			adult				
			 Child specific 				
			health care				
			needs				
			 Disaster 				
			preparedness				
			Background checks				
			 Before hire, 				
			program must				
			consult sex				
			offender registry				
			and either state				
			criminal history				
			records				
			including				

			 fingerprint or FBI criminal history including fingerprint checks Within 90 days of hire, complete fingerprinting for whichever was not conducted above and child abuse and neglect registry 				
Relationships	N/A	Promotes positive relationships among all children and adults to encourage each child's sense of individual worth and belonging as part of a community and to foster each child's ability to contribute as a responsible community member Establishes relationships with and uses the resources of the children's communities to support the achievement of program goals. The program establishes and maintains collaborative relationships with each child's family to foster children's development in all settings. These relationships are sensitive to family		VELS speak to providing opportunities that make a positive difference in their learning and development. "Intentional teaching includes having instructional goals for children that guide our interactions, learning environments, and curriculum planning." Throughout VELS the importance of adult relationships is embedded. The assessment tool CLASS (currently being used for STARS) has Adult-Child Interactions as one of the 3 areas it assesses. STARS also includes Family Engagement as an area. Child Care licensing regulations have the adult, child, and family	VELS speak to providing opportunities that make a positive difference in their learning and development. "Intentional teaching includes having instructional goals for children that guide our interactions, learning environments, and curriculum planning." Throughout VELS the importance of adult relationships is embedded. The assessment tool CLASS (currently being used for STARS) has Adult-Child Interactions as one of the 3 areas it assesses. STARS also includes Family Engagement as an area. Child Care licensing regulations have the adult, child, and family	VELS speak to providing opportunities that make a positive difference in their learning and development. "Intentional teaching includes having instructional goals for children that guide our interactions, learning environments, and curriculum planning." Throughout VELS the importance of adult relationships is embedded. The assessment tool CLASS (currently being used for STARS) has Adult-Child Interactions as one of the 3 areas it assesses. STARS also includes Family Engagement as an area. Child Care licensing regulations have the adult, child, and family	

	composition, language, and culture.		relationships across many of the regulations. Family engagement is incorporated in UPK assurances	relationships across many of the regulations. Family engagement is incorporated in UPK assurances	relationships across many of the regulations. Family engagement is incorporated in UPK assurances AOE encourages use of Pyramid Model Practices		Commented [8]: Across settings?
Leadership a Managemen	Effectively implements policies, procedures & systems that support stable staff and strong personnel, fiscal, and program management so all children, families, and staff have high-quality experiences	Child care licensing regulations have requirements for directors, requirements for policies, procedures and system. Depending on size of program, director is required to have certain coursework in these areas. Availability of Director Credential certificate through Northern Lights/CDD in addition to the requirements. OPTIONAL to do that step. *AOE School administrator license endorsement can be used in place of documenting coursework specifically listed in regulations.	Child care licensing regulations have requirements for directors, requirements for policies, procedures and system. Depending on size of program, director is required to have certain coursework in these areas. Availability of Director Credential certificate through Northern Lights/CDD in addition to the requirements. OPTIONAL to do that step. *AOE School administrator license endorsement can be used in place of documenting coursework specifically listed in regulations.	Child care licensing regulations have requirements for directors, requirements for policies, procedures and system. Depending on size of program, director is required to have certain coursework in these areas. Availability of Director Credential certificate through Northern Lights/CDD in addition to the requirements. OPTIONAL to do that step *AOE School administrator license endorsement can be used in place of documenting coursework specifically listed in regulations.	Child care licensing regulations have requirements for directors, requirements for policies, procedures and system. Depending on size of program, director is required to have certain coursework in these areas. Availability of Director Credential certificate through Northern Lights/CDD in addition to the requirements. OPTIONAL to do that step. *AOE School administrator license endorsement can be used in place of documenting coursework specifically listed in regulations.	Field requests for additional (optional) training on these requirements - First Children's Finance may offer some of these supports.	

Resource Links:

- NIEER's Quality Benchmarks
 NIEER Vermont Preschool Profile 2022
 NIEER Vermont Preschool Profile 2023
- <u>Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®) in Head Start</u> (new assessment of classroom quality/environment/interaction STARS)
- <u>CDD Licensing Regulations</u>
 <u>STARS process for the QRIS / STARS Guidance Manual / STARS Quality Levels</u>
 <u>AOE UPK Program Requirements</u>
 <u>AOE UPK Program Requirements readiness chart</u>

- <u>AOE State Board Rules 2600 Series</u>
- AOE State Board Rules 2600 Series
 Vermont Early Learning Standards
 Teaching Strategies Gold <u>Developmental Assessment</u> (online assessment of child skills over a time plays nicely with VELS)
 <u>Head Start Program Performance Standards</u>
 <u>10 NAEYC Program Standards Overview / Program Accreditation Standards & Assessment Items 2022</u>
 IDEA Special Education Standards
 <u>AOE Early Childhood Special Education</u>
 <u>AOE Licensing Endorsements</u>
 <u>Ages & Stages ASO (alignment w/ stare & where this could fit)</u>

- Ages & Stages ASQ (alignment w/ stars & where this could fit)

Commented [9]: @molovermont@gmail.com are you looking for regulations? eligibility? or endorsement criteria? _Assigned to molovermont@gmail.com_