

**Department of Children and Youth Memo 25-011**

**TO:** Licensed Child Care Centers and School Based Programs

**FROM:** Laura Graf, Deputy Director, Policy

**DATE:** 2/14/2025

**SUBJECT:** 2025 Updates to Early Care and Education Curriculum and Assessments

**Background**

In July 2024, the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) revised Step Up To Quality standards and benchmarks to reduce administrative burdens and to focus on the activities that have the ability to most improve the learning and development settings for young children. A key change to the expectations requires all rated programs to fully implement a curriculum aligned with the Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) and the Science of Reading. In order to support rated and non-rated programs with meeting the new expectations, DCY will be providing curriculum materials and professional development offerings for eligible child care centers and school based programs.

**Purpose**

DCY completed a competitive procurement process to identify curriculum to provide to eligible child care centers and school based programs and has updated the request form, "Curriculum and Assessment Request for Early Care and Education Programs" to allow programs to request materials.

For a program to be eligible to request a state-purchased curriculum, it must be licensed in Ohio and in good standing (not proposed for enforcement action) as a child care center or a school based program.

Priority will be given to programs in this order as funding is available:

1. Bronze rated programs with a current provider agreement.
2. Bronze rated programs without a current provider agreement.



3. New centers or schools not yet rated in Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) who are required to be rated (Have a provider agreement and serve 25% or more of the program's license capacity with children receiving Publicly Funded Child Care).
4. Early Childhood Education (ECE) Grantees and Preschool Special Education programs.
5. Gold and silver rated programs with a current provider agreement.
6. Gold and silver rated programs without a current provider agreement.
7. All other licensed programs with a current provider agreement.
8. All other licensed programs without a current provider agreement.

**Options for Programs that have not Previously Received The Creative Curriculum®**

If you have never received a free curriculum from the state, the following curricula and assessments for infant, toddler, and preschool age groups can be requested for your program:

- One hard copy of The Creative Curriculum® for Infants, Toddlers & Twos in English **or** Spanish
  - Includes a digital subscription to The Creative Curriculum® Cloud for each infant and toddler teacher at the site
  - Includes a digital subscription to the Professional Development Teacher Membership for each infant and toddler teacher at the site
- One hard copy of The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool, Guided Edition in English **or** Spanish
  - Includes a digital subscription to The Creative Curriculum® Cloud for each preschool teacher at the site
  - Includes a digital subscription to the Professional Development Teacher Membership for each preschool teacher at the site
- One digital portfolio of the GOLD® assessment per child
  - Infants through preschool

You may request up to one curriculum for each age group (infants and toddlers or preschool) served in your site. Requests for additional curricula may be granted if funding is available.

**Options for Programs that Previously Received The Creative Curriculum®**

If you previously received a free curriculum from the state, the following curricula and assessments for infant, toddler, and preschool age groups can be requested for your program:

- One hard copy of The Creative Curriculum® for Infants, Toddlers & Twos in English or Spanish **OR** one hard copy of The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool, Guided Edition in English or Spanish
  - Includes a digital subscription to The Creative Curriculum® Cloud for each teacher at the site
  - Includes a digital subscription to the Professional Development Teacher Membership for each teacher at the site
- One digital portfolio of the GOLD® assessment per child
  - Infants through preschool

Any licensed program may request to receive assessments without requesting a new curriculum.

For more information regarding these products, please visit: <http://teachingstrategies.com/>

**Instructions for Requesting Curriculum Materials**

To request a curriculum and/or assessments, programs must complete the form “Curriculum and Assessment Request for Early Care and Education Programs” for each licensed site via the Microsoft form link here: <https://forms.office.com/g/5rcRQV65TL>. In order for DCY and Teaching Strategies to disseminate resources as quickly as possible to as many eligible child care centers and school based programs, please submit the form by February 28 for consideration.

DCY will notify all child care centers and school based programs approved to receive the curriculum support, based on available funding and prioritization, by March 14, 2025.

Note: In-Home Aides, programs that serve only school age children, child day camps, and out-of-state programs are not eligible to receive state-purchased curriculum and assessments at this time.



There will be further communication regarding curriculum and assessment resources specifically for Family Child Care providers.

**Contact**

Please contact the Family and Customer Support Center at [info@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:info@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov) or 1-844-234-5437, option 2, if you have any questions.