

An Overview of NAEYC's New Quality Assessment & Accreditation System and Early Learning Program Standards Revision

The following questions were received from attendees during the March 13 webinar.

- 1. Are the 40 Recognition items embedded within the Accreditation/Accreditation+ items and/or is the expectation that Accreditation & Accreditation+ programs continue to meet what is required within Recognition?**

The 40 items in the Recognition application are not directly embedded into the Accreditation/Accreditation+ application. However, the documentation and information provided in the Recognition application set a foundation upon which related questions in the Accreditation/Accreditation+ application build.

For example, the Recognition application will ask for your policy related to the handling of disruptive or unsafe behaviors in children. The Accreditation/Accreditation+ application will ask that the policy related to handling disruptive or unsafe behaviors in children includes specific elements that elevate the quality of that policy.

- 2. For schools that qualify for the no-cost Recognition due to their status as of 2/15, if they paid within the last year, will the system automatically 'know' or does the school have to reach out to someone at NAEYC?**

Legacy system program status values were migrated into the new system so the new portal will recognize if any program was either "Enrolled" or "Applicant" at time of the new system launch and the discount for the Recognition Application will be applied at checkout.

- 3. Once a program begins to enter in evidence (at recognition level) into the hub, how long do they have to complete the application?**

There is currently no time limit for submitting a Recognition application once opened.

- 4. How much time will be provided for a program to make edits/revisions after NAEYC reviews what they have submitted?**

Programs that do not pass the initial review of the applications will have 30 days to make edits or revisions to any unmet items.

- 5. How long do you anticipate documentation review to take at the recognition level?**

It is not exactly known at this time how long it will take for programs to receive the results of application submissions at both the Recognition and Accreditation/Accreditation+ levels. We have launched the system maintaining the 90-day period to issue decisions based on the application submission date, however we do not anticipate that this will remain a policy as we begin to analyze real-time data and refine processes over the coming months.

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6. Is there a pathway from Recognition directly to Accreditation Plus?

There is no direct pathway from Recognition directly to Accreditation+. However, there is also no dwell time preventing a program from immediately progressing to Accreditation+ once the Accreditation application has been reviewed and approved.

7. Could there be more than one site visit during the 5 years or just the one site visit?

Yes. It is possible that an Accredited program may receive more than one site visit during a 5-year term of accreditation. It is also possible that an Accredited program may not receive any visits during a 5-year term of accreditation.

Similarly, Accreditation+ programs will receive a site visit within a short period following the approval of the application and may or may not also receive additional site visits throughout the 5-year term of accreditation+.

8. Is there a way to access the Accreditation and Accreditation+ forms before you apply so you know what is expected?

The program is able to open the application and view it once they are within the renewal window. They can save and come back later to continue / complete. The Self-Assessment Tools will also provide the guidance and details included in the application for assessment items, to help with preparation of the application responses ahead of accessing or completion.

9. Do we have any update on scoring percentages that are needed to pass?

Currently the scoring rules that have been developed are that programs must pass at least 80 percent of the assessed items for the Recognition and Accreditation/Accreditation+ applications in addition to all applicable required assessment items. There are no minimum scores required at the standard level.

For site visits, the current scoring rule is that all observed classes must pass at least 80 percent of the assessed items in addition to all applicable required assessment items. Like the application scoring rules, there are no minimum scores required at the standard level.

We are in the final stages of completing a formal pilot of the revised accreditation content and tools which will inform any potential changes to these scoring rules in conjunction with data that is collected over the next 9 months following system launch. Any such changes will be communicated through official channels in advance of implementation.

10. What are required scoring percentages for each level? How are the requirements broken down within standards and evidence type?

Answered above.

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11. If your center has 150+ children where can you see the accreditation fees?

The full fee structure is available [here](#).

12. I can't add new admin.

Existing primary and secondary contacts on a program's record should be able to add additional admins through the "Contacts and Portal Access" menu item. Contact the NAEYC support team if there are currently no active admin users or admins are unable to access the program's ELP Hub account to add additional contacts with access.

13. With the upload of documents, it appears that a program might be uploading the same document several times but each time it would be named something different to align to the directions in the Tool?

The applications have been designed with the intention of reducing the amount of redundancy and administrative burden of collecting and organizing documentation.

The applications at both levels will prompt users to submit a single PDF copy of the program's Family Handbook/Manual as well as the Staff Handbook/Manual and report the specific page numbers on which relevant documentation can be found for each assessment item.

There are a number of items in both applications that will then ask for specific written responses and in some cases additional documentation must be uploaded to provide an example for each age category served.

The intent is not to create additional work or duplications of effort. Our teams will continually monitor the types of evidence over the next 9 months and may make adjustments to certain assessment items if it appears there is a high degree of duplication of documentation. Additionally, if you have specific feedback about this issue as you complete your applications this can be provided to accreditation.information@naeyc.org.

14. Can you please remind how to find the policy handbook and the self study documents on the website? I am there now but can't locate it

All new system resources are linked directly on the Planned Changes page:
<https://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/early-learning/planned-changes>

15. Provide more details on how to upload your documentation for the standards. When can sites begin to start uploading information?

Programs renewal in the new system will be able to access the Accreditation Application 1 year prior to the VUD and will have 6 months once open to complete. Once the application is started, program admins will navigate to a survey application that includes all document-

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based assessment items, arranged by the evidence types. Based on the assessment item, the program will respond with acknowledging whether they meet the item requirement and then uploading documentation and / or narrative description that provides the program's evidence for the assessment item. For Staff/Family Handbook sections, the program will upload the relevant PDFs file(s) once and then reference in each assessment item where the information is found within the uploaded files.