



**Early Childhood Higher
Education Programs**

Programs Must Now Use the New Accreditation Standards for Self-Study Reports

Through 2022, programs had the option to submit Self-Study Reports using the 2010 accreditation standards (with or without the 2020 Professional Standards and Competencies) or the fully **updated 2021 accreditation standards**. **Programs submitting Self-Study Reports in 2023 and beyond must now use the new standards (A-F) and Self-Study Report Templates** (which are labeled as “Pilot Self-Study Report Template for the New Higher Ed Accredited Standards” in the Accreditation Resource Library).

Programs submitting Year 4 Interim Reports are also strongly encouraged to submit using learning opportunities, key assessments and candidate performance data aligned to the 2020 *Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators* rather than the 2010 standards in order to benefit from Commission feedback on standards alignment prior to preparing for accreditation renewal.

Curious about the new Peer Review Report template created to review programs using the new standards? As a reminder, all peer reviewer tools are also available in the Accreditation Resource Library for both reviewers and program contacts to view.

For questions about which template your program should use, please contact us at highered@naeyc.org.

Reminder: New Schedules and Deadlines

As a reminder, accredited programs now submit Year 2 and Year 4 Interim Reports as part of the expectation for maintaining accreditation during their accreditation term. **For programs accredited without conditions, annual reports in years 1, 3, and 5 are no longer required.** Programs accredited with conditions will submit a Response to Conditions form during each of their first three years of accreditation until conditions are met or the conditions period has concluded, along with an Interim Report in year 2.

Interim and response to conditions report templates are available in the Accreditation Resource Library. Interim reports, response to conditions, and first-time Self-Study Reports continue to be due on March 31 or September 30, while renewal Self-Study Reports are now due by May 31 or November 30, giving renewal programs a bit of extra time to submit. Additional details about this and other policy changes are summarized in [this chart](#).

In addition to changes to report submission schedules, annual fee submissions have also shifted for programs that previously submitted fees in the fall. All programs now submit annual fees by March 31 regardless of the cycle in which they submit reports. **Invoices for 2023 annual fees are expected to be emailed to primary and secondary contacts by mid-February.**

Responding to Conditions During Standards Transition

The accreditation system is learning together with programs as we all transition to the new accreditation standards (which include the expectation that programs align their curriculum to the [Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators](#)). We appreciate all of the great questions you've shared so far as you've worked to transform the standards from a written document to a lived experience for the newest members of the profession!

The Commission appreciates that some programs are transitioning to aligning their curriculum to the *Professional Standards and Competencies* while simultaneously responding to conditions given under the 2010 Accreditation Standards. In these cases, the Commission has agreed that if a program's

previous Self-Study Report included key assessments aligned with the 2010 standards, and the program then submits a Year 1 or Year 2 Response-to-Conditions Report that includes key assessments aligned with the 2020 *Professional Standards and Competencies*, existing policies allow that program a third year (if needed) to address any conditions related to standards alignment within key assessments. Any other conditions, including conditions related to other aspects of key assessments such as rubric quality, etc., would still need to be addressed within the original conditions period.

Programs responding to conditions are strongly encouraged to contact NAEYC staff with any questions around interpreting Commission feedback, timeline for standards transition, and/or documentation to include in the response-to-conditions report.

Upcoming Virtual Commission Ask-Me-Anything (Feb. 15, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern)

We'll be doing a pop-up "Ask Me Anything" session with several Commissioners on February 15, from 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern--we encourage you to register and submit questions in advance [here](#)--but if you have any difficulty with the form or don't get a chance to register, feel free to email highered@naeyc.org to request the Zoom link. We will also have a recording available after the session.

Recorded Webinars Available On-Demand

Did you know the Accreditation Resource Library includes recordings of previously held webinars on topics such as the *Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators*, the new accreditation standards and Self-Study Report template, Q&A sessions for programs at various stages of report preparation, and Commission Ask-Me-Anything sessions? Check out the [Recorded Webinars](#) thread (you must be logged into your Basecamp account) to view these recordings at a time that's convenient for you!

We've Moved!

Please update your records with NAEYC's new address: **1401 H St. NW Suite 600, Washington DC, 20005.**



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