



We All Benefit from Continuous Quality Improvement

We at the state level are working on Continuous Quality Improvement right alongside you. Just as you want to make your program as good as it possibly can be, we want to make sure that the statewide FOCUS quality improvement support system is responsive to your needs.

We have spent a lot of time talking with you about the current FOCUS training criteria – gathering feedback – and talking about changes that could be made.

THANK YOU – to all of you who took the time to document input regarding proposed changes to the FOCUS Criteria. At this time, we want to present changes that are being made IMMEDIATELY (effective Monday, November 23, 2015).

1) College Courses

Any of the courses leading to the New Mexico Child Development Certificate can be taken when a college course is required...the courses do not have to be taken in a prescribed order.

2) Six-Hour Courses

Either of the “six-hour courses” can be taken when a “six-hour course” is required.

3) Training Criteria/Requirements for NEW Educators

NEW EDUCATORS are only required to take the *45-Hour Entry Level Course* and “Intro to Focus” during their first year of employment.

Educators who have already taken the *45-Hour Entry Level Course* and have worked with children for at least six months are expected to take the FOCUS training as required.

4) The *Orientation to Intentional Teaching Series, Introduction to Intentional Teaching series, Intermediate Intentional Teaching series, and Advanced Intentional Teaching series*

The *Orientation to Intentional Teaching Series, Introduction to Intentional Teaching series, Intermediate Intentional Teaching series, and Advanced Intentional Teaching series* are no longer required.

In collaboration with the FOCUS Consultant and individual educator, the Director is expected to observe each educator’s strengths in the classroom, consider previous training, and determine training needs. A plan to learn about, implement, or review the Early Learning Guidelines, the NM Authentic Observation Documentation and Curriculum Planning Process, and Continuous Quality Improvement will be written into each educator’s Professional Development Plan (PDP). This training is available if identified in the PDP.

Planning Time Grants

We also received feedback on the implementation and access to the Planning Time Grants for FOCUS participating programs. To support programs achieve their goals to improve quality, we have updated the requirements for program participation.

Effective immediately,

1. Planning Time Grants will pay for a team of “Floaters/substitutes” to release each team of Educators for 2 hours per week, per educator (so a team of two educators can get a total combined of four hours, a team of three would be six hours, etc.)
2. Based on available funding, planning grants are available on a first come first serve basis for STAR 2+,3, 4, 5 and 5 STAR State recognized accredited programs (programs are responsible for attaching the current Accreditation certificate to their application).
3. If there are more programs applying than funding available, a waiting list will be created, and the following priority criteria will be implemented as follows:
 - a. STAR 3, 4 and 5 FOCUS
 - b. State recognized accredited programs
 - c. Programs working on 2+criteria

Please submit any questions – or comments - that you might have to Lauren DeCristoforo in the Office of Child Development (Lauren.DeCristoforo@state.nm.us)

FOLLOWING IS A DRAFT OF HOW THE CHANGES IN THE FOCUS TRAINING CRITERIA WILL APPEAR AS REVISED FOCUS TRAINING CRITERIA:

FOUNDATIONS OF QUALITY

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Site Directors/Education Coordinators

2+ STAR (YEAR ONE) CRITERIA	2+ STAR (YEAR 2) OR 3 STAR CRITERIA	4 STAR	5 STAR CRITERIA
<p><u>Professional Development:</u> 2+1.1 Site Director, or staff person designated as the site’s Education Coordinator must complete all the steps toward obtaining, or have already obtained, the New Mexico Child Development Certificate (or higher early childhood degree with corresponding certificate or license).</p> <p>2+1.1a Explore higher education entrance, registration, and enrollment requirements, including when the ACCUPLACER exam is required in order to complete courses for the New Mexico Child Development Certificate.</p>	<p>Meet 2+ Year 1 requirements plus:</p> <p><u>Professional Development:</u> 3.1 Site Director, or staff person designated as the site’s Education Coordinator must have successfully completed at least one course leading to their New Mexico Child Development Certificate (or higher early childhood degree with corresponding certificate or license):</p> <p><i>Child Growth, Development & Learning (3 credits)</i></p> <p><i>Assessment of Children and Evaluation of Programs (3 credits)</i></p> <p><i>Family and Community Collaboration (3 credits)</i></p> <p><i>Health, Safety & Nutrition (2 credits)</i> or <i>Guiding Young Children (3 credits)</i></p>	<p>Meet 2+ Year 1 & 3 STAR requirements plus:</p> <p><u>Professional Development:</u> 4.1 Site Director, or staff person designated as the site’s Education Coordinator must have successfully completed at least one additional course leading to their New Mexico Child Development Certificate (or higher early childhood degree with corresponding certificate or license):</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—————→</p>	<p>Meet 2+ Year 1, 3 & 4 STAR requirements plus:</p> <p><u>Professional Development:</u> 5.1 Site Director, or staff person designated as the site’s Education Coordinator must have successfully completed their New Mexico Child Development Certificate, or have already obtained, the New Mexico Child Development Certificate (or higher early childhood degree with corresponding certificate or license):</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—————→</p>
<p>2+.2 Program leadership must establish, and update annually, a Professional Development Plan for themselves as well as for each educator.</p>	—————→	—————→	—————→

Training:

2+.3 Site **Director**, or staff person designated as the site's **Education Coordinator** must have successfully completed:

Powerful Interactions
(4 hours)

2+.3.b *Leadership Academy 1*
(6 hours)

Training:

3.3 Site **Director**, or staff person designated as the site's **Education Coordinator** must have successfully completed:

The Full Participation of Each Child
(6 hours)
or
Quality Child Care Programs for All
(6 hours)

3.3.b *Leadership Academy 2*
(6 hours)

Training:

4.3 Site **Director**, or staff person designated as the site's **Education Coordinator** must have successfully completed:

The Full Participation of Each Child
(6 hours)
and
Quality Child Care Programs for All
(6 hours)

4.3.b *Leadership In Action*

Training:

5.3 Site **Director**, or staff person designated as the site's **Education Coordinator** must have successfully completed:

5.3.a *Leadership In Action*

FOUNDATIONS OF QUALITY
PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
Educators

2+ STAR (YEAR ONE) CRITERIA	2+ STAR (YEAR 2) OR 3 STAR CRITERIA	4 STAR CRITERIA	5 STAR CRITERIA
<p><u>Professional Development:</u></p> <p>2+1.1 Complete all the steps toward obtaining, or have already obtained, the New Mexico Child Development Certificate for the age/s assigned.</p> <p>2+1.1a Explore higher education entrance, registration, and enrollment requirements, including when the ACCUPLACER exam is required in order to complete courses for the New Mexico Child Development Certificate.</p>	<p>Meet 2+ Year 1 requirements plus:</p> <p><u>Professional Development:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">—————→</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—————→</p>	<p>Meet 2+ Year 1 & 3 STAR requirements plus:</p> <p><u>Professional Development:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">—————→</p> <p>1. At least one educator per classroom (preferably the lead educator) must have successfully completed at least one course leading to their New Mexico Child Development Certificate:</p> <p><i>Child Growth, Development & Learning</i> (3 credits)</p> <p><i>Assessment of Children and Evaluation of Programs</i> (3 credits)</p> <p><i>Family and Community Collaboration</i> (3 credits)</p> <p><i>Health, Safety & Nutrition</i> (2 credits) or <i>Guiding Young Children</i> (3 credits)</p>	<p>Meet 2+ Year 1, 3 STAR & 4 STAR requirements plus:</p> <p><u>Professional Development:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">—————→</p> <p>5.2 At least one educator per classroom (preferably the lead educator) must have successfully completed at least one additional course leading to their New Mexico Child Development Certificate:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—————→</p>

<p>Training: Experienced Educator* Track</p> <p>2+.1.2 All experienced educators working directly with children must have successfully completed:</p> <p>2+.1.2a Powerful Interactions (4 hours)</p> <p>2+.1.2b Intro to Focus (on line) and discussed content with Director or Education Coordinator</p> <p>New Educator track**</p>	<p>Training:</p> <p>3.4 All educators working directly with children must have successfully completed:</p> <p><i>The Full Participation of Each Child (6 hours)</i> or <i>Quality Child Care Programs for All (6 hours)</i></p> <p>3.5 Those who were new educators in Year 1 working directly with children must have successfully completed:</p> <p><i>Powerful Interactions (4 hours)</i></p>	<p>Training:</p> <p>4.4 All educators working directly with children must have successfully completed:</p> <p><i>The Full Participation of Each Child (6 hours)</i> and <i>Quality Child Care Programs for All (6 hours)</i></p> <p>4.5 Those who were new educators in Year 1 working directly with children must have successfully completed:</p> <p><i>The Full Participation of Each Child (6 hours)</i> or <i>Quality Child Care Programs for All (6 hours)</i></p>	<p>Training:</p> <p>4.5 Those who were new educators in Year 1 working directly with children must have successfully completed:</p> <p><i>The Full Participation of Each Child (6 hours)</i> and <i>Quality Child Care Programs for All (6 hours)</i></p>
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*Experienced Educator – Those who have successfully completed the *45-Hour Entry Level Course* (or approved equivalent) and have completed at least six months of work with pre-kindergarten children in an early childhood care and education program.

** New Educator – Those who have not successfully completed the *45-Hour Entry Level Course* (or approved equivalent) and have not completed at least six months of work with pre-kindergarten children in an early childhood care and education program.

Menu of Voluntary FOCUS Training Options Available to All Administrators and Educators to be offered through the TTAPs and the EC Training HUB
(Individualized training plan must be reflected in each educator’s Professional Development Plan)

Beginning	Intermediate	Advanced
ELG I (4 hours)	ELG II (4 hours)	ELG III (4 hours)
AODCP I (4 hours)	AODCP II (6 hours)	AODCP III (6 hours)
CQI I (2 hours)	CQI II (2 hours)	CQI III (2 hours)

(Note: A detailed syllabus will be developed and published for each of the above so that Directors, Educators, and Consultants will be able to more appropriately match each individual training strengths and needs with the specific training – and include it in the educator’s Professional Development Plan.)