

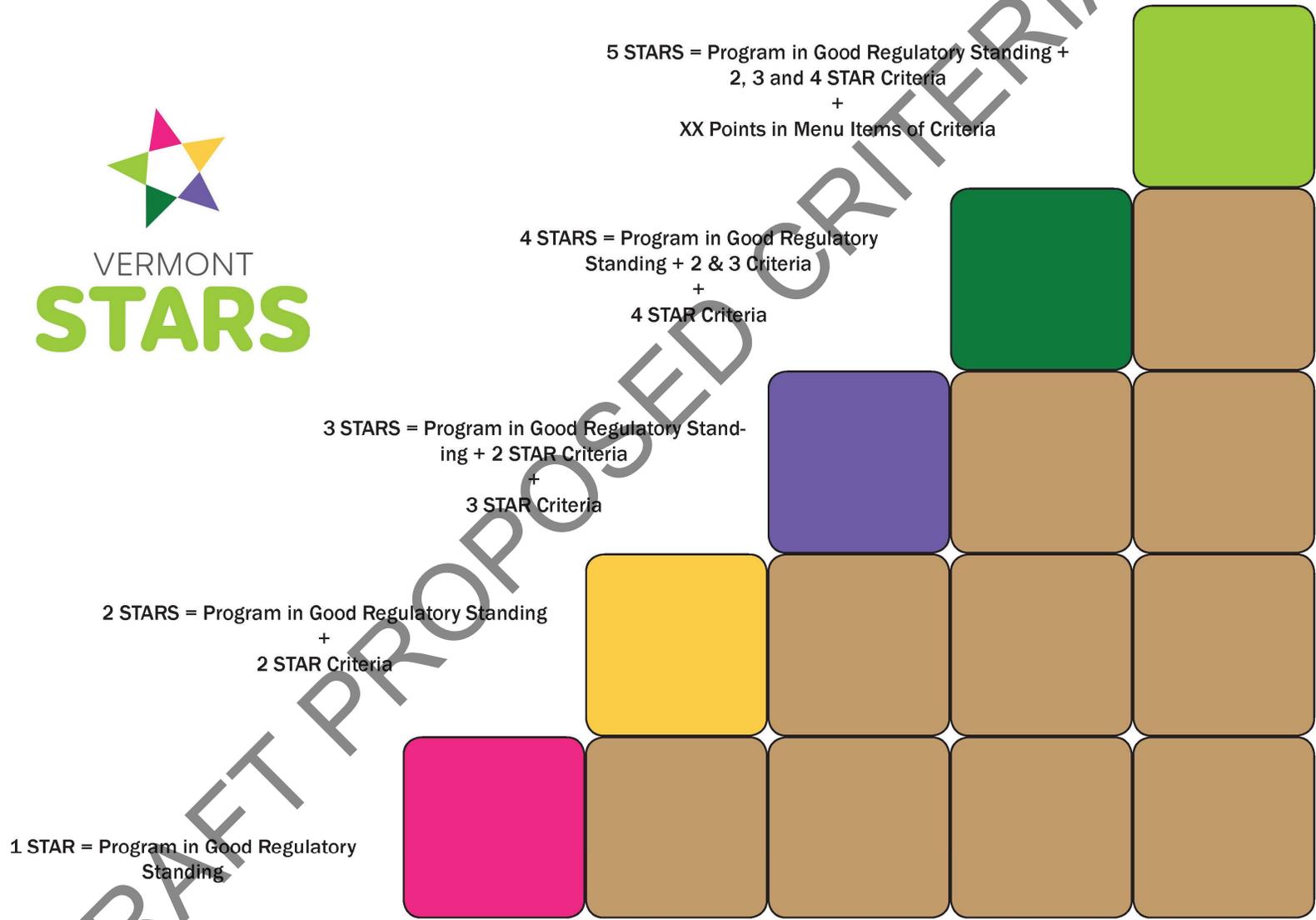
Vermont STARS Draft Proposed Criteria

The following pages contain the STARS Draft Proposed Criteria as of December 2019. These pages are part of a presentation on the criteria available here:

<https://youtu.be/9pO2QwyrxN8>

Please note:

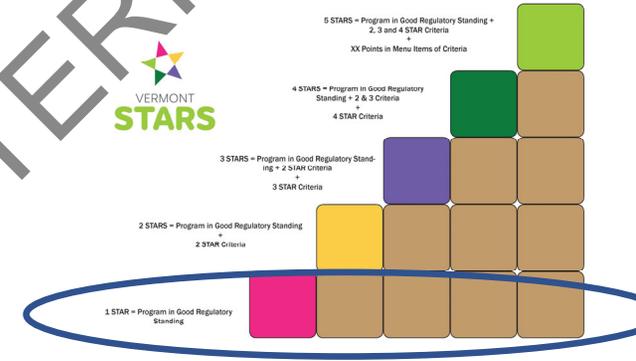
- This criteria will go through a promulgation process in 2021 where comments and changes will happen.
- In January – May 2020 volunteer work groups from the field are working to develop recommendations of what will be required to be submitted in the application, and they are developing guidance and resources for programs applying in the future.
- Information about the changes (evolution) of STARS can be found here:
<https://dcf.vermont.gov/childcare/providers/stars/evolution>
- The division is planning community meetings on the changes in fall 2020.
- Five star criteria will be available in the fall 2020.



DRAFT PROPOSED CRITERIA



1 STAR

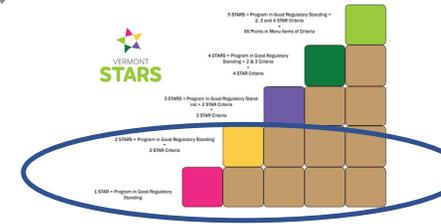


All Regulated Child Care, Preschool and Afterschool Programs in Good Regulatory Standing

DRAFT PROPOSED CRITERIA



2 STARS – Policy and Planning



FINAL DRAFT Criteria

2.1 The program has a written philosophy that includes developmentally appropriate practices and considers the needs of each and every child. In subsequent years, the program demonstrates implementation of the policy.

2.2 The program has a policy specific to child assessment and screening. The policy includes procedures that apply when developmental concerns are noted, including:

- when a referral will be made and
- a process for how program adapts the curriculum to meet student needs.

In subsequent years, the program demonstrates implementation of the policy.

2.3 The program demonstrates how they considered the costs and expenses of the program when setting rates.

2.4 The program has a wellness policy for staff and children. In subsequent years, the program demonstrates implementation of the policy.

2.5 The program leader or designated program representative engages in networking with community organizations and others outside the program.

2.6 The program conducts a self-assessment of the program using tool(s) chosen by the program.

2.7 The program develops a continuous quality improvement (CQI) plan for the program that includes goals based on the self-assessment of the program (2.6). The CQI plan is updated annually.

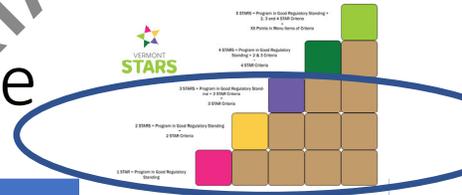
Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) plan

- Developed by the program to plan improvements in the program's services.
- The same plan is used at all star levels
- Specific levels may require specific assessments or tools be used as part of the program's plan.

DRAFT PROPOSED CRITERIA



3 STARS – Incorporating Quality into Practice



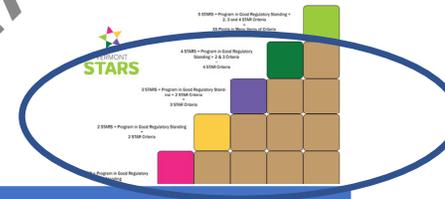
DRAFT Criteria

Criteria from STAR 2

- 3.1 The program provides paid curriculum planning time that is scheduled weekly for each person leading a group of children.
- 3.2 Program staff observe the development of children to inform development and adaptation of curriculum that meets each child’s diverse developmental, cultural, linguistic and educational needs.
- 3.3 The program implements employee compensation that considers education, qualifications, years in the field, and responsibilities.
- 3.4 The program offers, to full-time staff, at least one employee benefit option included on a STARS list of benefits.
- 3.5 The program has no child care licensing variances related to staff qualifications for staff employed longer than five (5) years in the position.
- 3.6 The program connects families to community resources that strengthen families and support the development of children.
- 3.7 The program conducts a self-assessment on their practices with families using a STARS-approved tool.
- 3.8 The program updates and implements its continuous quality improvement (CQI) plan annually. The CQI plan is informed by input from staff and families, and results from their self-assessment on their practices with families (3.8). In subsequent years, assessment using the same tool shows improvement in areas identified in the plan.



4 STARS – Reflective Quality Practices



DRAFT Criteria

Criteria from STAR 2 and STAR 3

- 4.1 The program provides, at a minimum, monthly, scheduled, and paid curriculum planning time for the team that works with a group of children and is responsible for planning and implementation of curriculum.
- 4.2 Programs implement care and learning opportunities that teach cultural sensitivity and explore communities in the world around us.
- 4.3 The program offers, to full-time staff, at least three employee benefit options included on a STARS list of benefits.
- 4.4 The program uses reflection and relationship-based strategies to create and implement professional development plans for all staff, focused on continuous growth and development.
- 4.5 The program uses a STARS-approved assessor to observe program practices and give feedback on the program's continuous quality improvement (CQI) plan. The assessment tool is STARS-approved for the setting.
- 4.6 The program updates and implements its continuous quality improvement (CQI) plan annually. The CQI plan is informed by the results from their program practices assessment by the STARS approved assessor. (4.5). In subsequent years, assessment using the same tool shows improvement in areas identified in the plan.