



History of Guiding Stars of Duval

The Early Learning Coalition of Duval (ELC of Duval) is the one-stop resource of information about early learning experiences in Jacksonville and Duval County. ELC of Duval helps families get their children into early learning care by providing financial assistance, while also helping child care providers improve the quality of their early learning program. In the last decade, 11 communities in Florida have developed local quality rating improvement systems (QRIS). In November 2014 a collaborative of QRIS funders, the Early Learning Coalitions and Children's Services Councils, convened to share best practices, challenges and explore ways to strengthen community models. This document summarizes the recommended standards, each of which are substantiated by research, and are ambitious yet achievable.

Our Quality Rating System (QRS) began in January 2004 with a pilot phase of 14 providers. Over the years we have continuously worked to improve upon the quality standards and implementation of our QRIS. The success of Guiding Stars of Duval is due to the extraordinary collaborations with the community.

Quality Rating System – Pilot Phase 1 - January 2004 to June 2005

- Launched QRS as a very small pilot – only 14 preschools participated Indicators organized under 8 domains
 - ◊ Ratio and Group Size
 - ◊ Environmental Structure (ITERS & ECERS)
 - ◊ Staff Qualifications
 - ◊ Staff Compensation and Benefits
 - ◊ Professional Development
 - ◊ Screening and Referral
 - ◊ Curriculum and Assessment
 - ◊ Parent/Family Involvement

Quality Rating System – Pilot Phase 2 - July 2005 to June 2007

- Expanded to 100 preschools
- Same set of indicators organized under 8 domains



Guiding Stars of Duval 1.0 – Quality Rating Improvement System - July 2007 to June 2012

- Guiding Stars of Duval (GSOD) – the brand name – was unveiled on Nov. 7, 2007 during Mayor Peyton's Press Conference with a celebration of the preschool directors
- Reorganized and revised the 8 domains and indicators into 5 domains based on discussions as part of a multi-county collaborative in Florida
 - ◇ Learning Environment (ITERS & ECERS)
 - ◇ Staff Qualifications and Professional Development
 - ◇ Ratio and Group Size

 - ◇ Curriculum
 - ◇ Program Operations
 - * Family Engagement
 - * Program Administration
- An additional 75 preschools were added, as well as 15 family child care homes

Pause Year - July 2012 to June 2013

- Providers were concerned about the rigidity of some of the Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS) and Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS) indicators
- Board members requested to measure teacher child interaction purposefully
- Revisited the percentages and weights of each domain

Guiding Stars of Duval 2.0 - July 2013 to June 2016

- Pre-K Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) and Missouri Infant Toddler Responsive Caregiver Checklist replaced ITERS and ECERS
- 5 Domains were scaled down to 3:
 - ◇ Program Personnel
 - * Staff Child Ratio and Group Size
 - * Staff Qualifications and Professional Development
 - ◇ Program Management
 - * Business Practices
 - * Family Engagement
 - ◇ Program Content
 - * Classroom – General Program Quality
 - * Curriculum and Assessment
 - * Teacher Child Interaction – Infant Toddler (Missouri Infant Toddler Responsive Caregiver Checklist)
 - * Teacher Child Interaction – Preschool (Pre K CLASS)



Guiding Stars of Duval 3.0 - July 2016 to June 2019

- Infant and Toddler CLASS replaced Missouri Infant Toddler Responsive Caregiver Checklist; Infant, Toddler, and Pre K CLASS now complete the Program Content – Teacher Child Interactions Domain
- Slight change to the 3 Domains:
 - ◊ Program Personnel – Staff Qualifications and Training Hours/Professional Development
 - ◊ Program Content - Teacher Child Interactions (Infant, Toddler, and Pre K CLASS)
 - ◊ Program Content – Child Screening, Child Assessment, and Curriculum

Guiding Stars of Duval 4.0 - July 2019 to June 2023

During the 2018 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature passed House Bill 1091, which increases quality and accountability in the School Readiness Program. As a requirement under this legislation, all school readiness providers must undergo an annual program assessment.

- Established a Guiding Stars work group to align the new legislation with Guiding Stars of Duval
- Guiding Stars of Duval 4.0 approved by the board June 2019
- Another revision of the 3 Domains:
 - ◊ Program Personnel – Staff Qualifications and Training Hours/Professional Development
 - ◊ Program Assessment – School Readiness Composite Program Assessment score
 - ◊ Program Content – Child Screening, Child Assessment and Child Well Being

Guiding Stars of Duval 5.0 - July 2023 to present

- Guiding Stars work group met with providers to discuss legislative changes with the statewide program assessment
- Guiding Stars of Duval 5.0 approved by the board June 2023
- Revisions were made to the Guiding Stars of Duval rating tool
 - ◊ Program Personnel- Staff Qualifications and Professional Development
 - ◊ Program Assessment- Teacher Child Interaction CLASS Observations
 - ◊ Program Content- Child Well Being and Child Assessment