

## TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION LETTER

<b>ID/No:</b>	WD 24-16
<b>Date:</b>	October 25, 2016
<b>Keyword:</b>	Child Care
<b>Effective:</b>	Immediately

**To:** Local Workforce Development Board Executive Directors  
Commission Executive Offices  
Integrated Service Area Managers  
*Reagan Miller*

**From:** Reagan Miller, Deputy Director, Workforce Solutions

**Subject:** **Recognition of AdvancED Quality Early Learning School Standards as Initial 4-Star Texas Rising Star Providers**

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### **PURPOSE:**

To provide Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) with information and guidance regarding recognition of AdvancED Quality Early Learning School (QELS) standards as initial 4-Star Texas Rising Star (TRS) providers.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Under the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) TRS Certification Guidelines (TRS Guidelines), facilities accredited by a national accrediting entity recognized by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), are initially certified as a TRS 4-star provider without conducting a full TRS assessment.

### **PROCEDURES:**

**NLF:** Boards must be aware of the following:

- On October 1, 2016, the DoD recognized AdvancED QELS as a national accrediting entity.
- AdvancED QELS will be added to the DoD-recognized national accreditations in the TRS Guidelines.
- AdvancED QELS providers applying for TRS certification will receive initial 4-star certification without requiring a full on-site assessment, subject to the requirements described in this WD Letter.

**NLF:** Boards must be aware of the following:

- Initial 4-star TRS certification is approved only for AdvancED QELS providers that have been certified by AdvancED under the QELS standards approved by the DoD.
- AdvancED will provide to TWC a quarterly cumulative list of providers that are currently certified under the new standards.

- TWC will send the full list to the Boards upon receipt from AdvancED.
- If an AdvancED QELS certified provider applies for TRS certification, the Board will check the list sent by TWC to determine whether the provider has been certified under the new AdvancED standards.

**NLF**: Boards must be aware that in order for an AdvancED QELS provider to be initially certified as a TRS 4-star provider, the provider must:

- apply for TRS certification by following the procedures for a nationally accredited facility as described in the TRS Guidelines and in WD Letter 27-15, issued November 6, 2015, and entitled “Texas Rising Star Guidelines Revisions: Application and Self-Assessment for Accredited Providers”; and
- meet all of the eligibility requirements under TWC’s Child Care Services rule §809.131, including the requirements of the TRS screening form.

**NLF**: Boards must be aware that an AdvancED QELS provider initially certified as a 4-star TRS provider is subject to:

- the annual monitoring provisions under §809.133(d) required of all TRS providers; and
- the three-year TRS full assessment provisions under §809.133(c)(2) required of all TRS providers, unless AdvancED:
  - has conducted an on-site recertification within the three-year TRS assessment cycle; and
  - recertifies the provider as meeting AdvancED QELS standards and Texas Assurances.

**INQUIRIES:**

Send inquiries regarding this WD Letter to [wfpolicy.clarifications@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:wfpolicy.clarifications@twc.state.tx.us).

**RESCISSIONS:**

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**REFERENCES:**

Texas Workforce Commission Child Care Services Rules §809.131 and §809.133(c)–(e)  
 WD Letter 27-15, issued November 6, 2015, and entitled “Texas Rising Star Guidelines Revisions: Application and Self-Assessment for Accredited Providers”

**FLEXIBILITY RATINGS:**

**No Local Flexibility (NLF)**: This rating indicates that Boards must comply with the federal and state laws, rules, policies, and required procedures set forth in this WD Letter and have no local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to comply. All information with an NLF rating is indicated by “must” or “shall.”

**Local Flexibility (LF)**: This rating indicates that Boards have local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to implement guidance or recommended practices set forth in this WD Letter. All information with an LF rating is indicated by “may” or “recommend.”