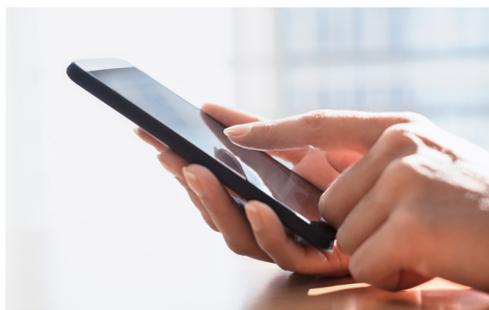




## Are you using the InfoLine?



The Center for Early Learning Professionals InfoLine is a resource to assist early learning programs and professionals to improve quality by answering questions and accessing resources related to best practice in the field of early childhood. Let the experts at

the Center for Early Learning Professionals help you! You can submit your question(s) by calling (401) 734-1292 or via their [website](#).

## Save The Date

**Feb 25:** ECEDS [registration session](#), CCRI Warwick campus, 6-8pm

**Feb 25:** Wave 6 of [quality improvement grants](#) application closes

**Feb 27:** [2015-2016 PreK proposals](#) due to RIDE by 4:30pm

## Registration for the Early Care and Education Data System is live!

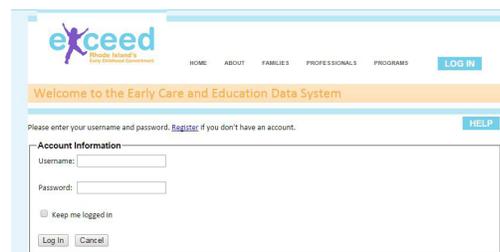
Exceed is pleased to announce the first release of the Early Care and Education Data System (ECEDS), an electronic tool that will allow providers to:

- Complete DCYF licensing renewal paperwork;
- Apply to BrightStars and RIDE's Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Approval;
- Make it easy for families to find program through an online search.

In this first release, we are asking child care administrators, public school education leaders and family child care providers to provide up-to-date information about their program for an online early learning program search. Administrators and family child care providers received letters and information about the registration last week via US mail. Providers can access the ECEDS system through the Exceed website. We are providing programs with the opportunity to update their information before it becomes public on the Exceed website. The early learning program search will be launched to the public in a few weeks. The online applications will be available later this year.

If you are a child care administrator, public school education leader or a family child care provider and did not receive a letter with registration information, please contact Erica Mandeville [by email](#) or calling (401) 222-8164.

Si necesita asistencia en Español, por favor de ponerse en contacto con Franklin Brito a través de su correo electrónico, [franklin.brito@ride.ri.gov](mailto:franklin.brito@ride.ri.gov) o por teléfono al (401) 222-8184.



## Changes to quality award eligibility to increase impact

This fall, DHS conducted an analysis of the first year of program quality awards to assess its impact(s) and consequence(s) in the context of the original goals and priorities. The key questions to help analyze the current quality award participation and structure were:

*How can the state increase participation in the quality award program? Should that include changing the eligibility criteria to increase the participation of programs serving low income children and should the proxy for low income be expanded beyond CCAP? Lastly, is the quality award formula equitable across different funding streams?*

At the February 12 Program Standards and Quality Early Learning Council subcommittee meeting, the Department of Human Services announced a potential change to the quality award eligibility:

Base criteria: Must be a current 3, 4, or 5 star center-based or family child care home provider in BrightStars.

- **Eligibility Threshold Level 1:** 10% or greater of their licensed capacity is CCAP children
- OR**
- **Eligibility Threshold Level 2:** Program accepts CCAP and is able to demonstrate that at least 10% of their capacity serves children from families that are low income (less than 200% of FPL)

These changes will require an update to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) rules and will be posted in the next month through the Rhode Island Secretary of State for thirty days with a period for public comment. To receive updates on the rule change, please sign up for the SOS rules tracker at <http://sos.ri.gov/rules/freshregs/>. Individuals with questions should contact Deborah Anthes [via email](#) or call (401) 462-6842 at the Department of Human Services.

## Tip sheets are now available!

The RTT-ELC alignment team and the Center for Early Learning Professionals have created a series of tip sheets. These tip sheets are designed to guide early learning professionals in better understanding critical aspects of program improvement and professional development and help describe the pathways of the program quality continuum in key areas. As new tip sheets are generated, they will be made available on the Exceed [website](#).

- [Continuous quality improvement and your quality improvement plan](#)
- [Curriculum](#)
- [Early childhood assessment](#)
- [Family communication, involvement and engagement](#)



*These images illustrate the pathways of program quality continuum by early learning program setting*

# THE RACE TO THE TOP

## *Early Learning Challenge*

### PROJECT UPDATE!



Interested in learning more about the work of the Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge from January 2015? A copy of the report to the Early Learning Council is [available here](#).

The Rhode Island Departments of Education and HEALTH are working together to communicate to families the importance of regular developmental screening for children ages birth to five. Please help us spread the word about the importance of developmental milestones and developmental screening by following ExceedRI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

