









EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION INFORMATION SNAPSHOTS

STAR RATING REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRAMS SERVING PRESCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN LICENSED CHILDCARE

-  Early care and education programs that partner with either School Administrative Units (SAU's) or Child Development Services (CDS) must meet the Maine Roads to Quality (MRTQ) 3-star rating requirements.
-  Maine Roads to Quality is the state's [Quality Rating Improvement System \(QRIS\)](#), and Rising Stars for Me is the professional development network that supports achievement of the star ratings needed to demonstrate quality.
-  This rating signifies a commitment to high-quality care, ensuring that programs meet essential standards for safety, staff qualifications, and early childhood development.
-  A 3-star rating reflects a program's adherence to best practices in early learning, fostering positive child outcomes through an evidence-based curriculum aligned with the Maine Early Learning Standards (MELDS), including developmentally appropriate activities and a supportive learning environment.
-  Childcare programs are required to meet the Maine Roads to Quality rating of three Stars when partnering with SAUs to serve preschool-aged children with disabilities. Child Care programs that are two stars can move forward in one of the following ways:
 - [Apply for a waiver](#) and work with MRTQ to move from two stars to three stars by the August 2028 deadline.
 - Choose not to participate in the ECSE connected program
-  For additional information, please contact ECSE.Team@maine.gov