



Child Care and Education Committee – Administrative Rule Summary

Title/OAR #: Rules for Quality Rating and Improvement System (Spark)		Date: October 12, 2017	
Staff/Office: Dawn Woods, Child Care Director, Meredith Russell, Program Development Lead			
<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Rule	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Rule	<input type="checkbox"/> Amend Existing Rule	<input type="checkbox"/> Repeal Rule
Hearing Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Hearings Officer Report Attached		
Prompted by: <input type="checkbox"/> State law changes	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal law changes	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Action Requested:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Adoption of Temporary Rule			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adoption of Final Rule			

Status Update:

The Child Care and Education Committee received [briefings and updates](#) on Spark standards revisions in May, June and July 2017. This memo will update the CCEC on status of standards revisions as well as administrative rule development.

The Spark Revision Ad Hoc Committee presented an [update](#) to the Early Learning Council on September 28 as a precursor to the presentation of recommended Spark standards later in the fall. The revision strategies include:

- Simplifying the language while maintaining the use of commonly used terms in the early childhood profession
- Modifying standards to further reflect diversity of ages of children, types of programs and pedagogies
- Modifying standards to ensure the inclusion of culturally appropriate practices
- Changing personnel qualification domain to a more holistic way of looking at the overall qualifications of key staff.
- Ensuring input from communities of color and language-diverse populations will be intentionally identified and used in the revision effort and these communities will be engaged throughout the revision process.
- Modifying the star rating system to maintain the current strengths of building block system as well as addressing issues caused by building block system.

Rules for Spark may cover

- Entity responsible for final determination of Spark standards
- Entity responsible for final determination of Spark rating for a program



- Process for appealing a Spark rating
- Process for revoking a Spark rating
- Process for appealing a revocation of a Spark rating
- Process for programs governed by tribal governments to participate in Spark.

Draft rule language is currently undergoing legal review. A robust legal review is necessary to ensure an equitable alternative pathway for license-exempt facilities to participate in Spark, and processes for facilities to dispute their assigned rating. We anticipate that legal review to be completed such that staff can prepare draft language for CCEC's consideration in November.

