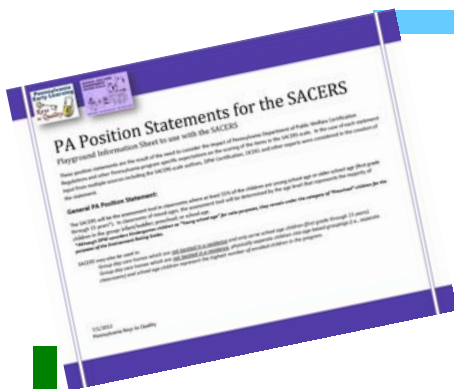
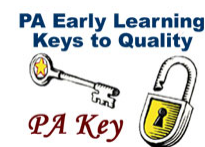


PA Position Statements: An Important Resource to Utilize with the Environment Rating Scales



How are the PA Position Statements Created?

The PA Position Statements were created through a collaborative process that included input and/or consideration of information from:

- Department of Public Welfare Certification Office
- ERS Authors
- Caring for Our Children National Standards - 3rd Edition
- ECELS
- OCDEL
- Other ECE Experts

Any time there is need to add a new Position Statement, the same process is used to assure that all aspects of best practice are considered.



Why do the PA Position Statements Exist?

The PA Position Statement Documents were created to address three different aspects of the use of the Environment Rating Scales (ERS) within Pennsylvania's Early Learning Quality Initiatives.:

- Department of Public Welfare (DPW) Regulations serve as the foundation for many of the state's quality initiative programs. These regulations result in higher or more specific expectations in some areas of classroom quality than that represented in the ERS items/indicators and author's Notes for Clarification. In those instances, a PA Position Statement, which overrides all other scoring guidance was created to inform the field of how ERS items/indicators will be scored for Pennsylvania ECE Programs.
- In the case of the SACERS scale, the author's Notes for Clarification do not provided detailed expectations for users to aid in scoring quality aspects of best practice, such as the definitions of terms used in the scale or the amount of time access to materials is needed. In these instances a PA Position Statement was created to assure that practitioners and assessors are viewing the scale expectations in the same manner.
- In the case of assessing the safety of gross motor play spaces, the PA Position Statement documents provide Playground Information Sheet pages that outline for practitioners what aspects of safety will be assessed for that particular age range or type of care.

What is Included in the PA Position Statements?

You will find the following elements in each PA Position Statement Document:

- A cover page that includes information on why the document was created, the resources consulted during its creation, and what types of classrooms/care settings/age ranges that scale is used for in Pennsylvania.
- The body of the document contains detailed information regarding general Position Statements and specific Position Statements that apply to particular scale items and/or indicators within the scale. It is organized based upon the order of the items and indicators within that particular scale.
- Following the Position Statements, the Playground Information Sheet pages for that scale are found.
- The final page of the PA Position Statement documents for the ITERS, ECERS and FCCERS is the Changing Diapers, Pull-ups and Soiled Underwear handout. This resource outlines the expectations for sanitary practice during diapering/toileting routines.

Who Should Use the PA Position Statements?

Anyone using the ERS tools to support the improvement or monitoring of ongoing classroom quality practices within facilities participating in any of Pennsylvania's quality initiative programs including classroom teachers, directors, owners, technical assistant consultants, STARS Specialists, Preschool Program Specialists, and ERS Assessors.

The Parts of the PA Position Statements Grid:

Item
#11 Nap/Rest

1. The Item Column

This column indicates the item number and name that the accompanying Position Statements are applicable to. If no number is indicated the statement is then a general Position Statement that is applicable to all practices as noted in the statement.

3. The Indicator Description Column

This column provides a paraphrased description of the item indicators to which the accompanying Position Statements apply.

Indicator	Indicator Description
1.2 and 3.2	Expects rest equipment to have a minimum separation of 18 inches at 3.2.
3.2	Expects healthful, sanitary provisions for nap/rest linens, but does not provide a cleaning schedule.
5.3	Expects cots to be separated by 36 inches or a solid barrier.

5. The Supporting Evidence Column

This final column, located on the right side of the grid, provides information on what sources of information regarding best practices were used in the creation of the applicable statement located in the column to the left.

Supporting Guidance
PA DPW Certification Regulations
PA DPW Certification Regulations
PA DPW Certification Regulations
CFOC 5.4.5 Sleep and Rest Areas STANDARD 5.4.5.1: Sleeping Equipment and Supplies

When Should the PA Position Statements be Referenced?

It is important to have the PA Position Statements on hand when:

- Learning how to use the ERS Tools for self-assessment purposes
- Conducting ERS Assessments in a classroom to ensure scoring accuracy
- Reviewing ERS Summary Reports provided following a visit from an outside assessor from the Keys to Quality System

2. The Indicator Column

This column includes the specific indicators that accompanying Position Statements refer to in the scale. While some statements apply only to one indicator others may apply to indicators at multiple levels of quality.

Item	Indicator
#11 Nap/Rest	1.2 and 3.2
	3.2
	5.3

4. The Position Statement Column

This column includes the Position Statement applicable to the item and indicator noted in the columns to the left of the statement. It provides detailed information on how the item/indicators will be scored for programs participating in Pennsylvania's quality initiatives.

Indicator Description	Position Statement
	check or by posting the information in some other manner that protects confidentiality.
Expects rest equipment to have a minimum separation of 18 inches at 3.2.	At least 24 inches of open space from other napping children or furniture/equipment is required on three sides of nap equipment. The expectation is for all children to be separated in this manner to prevent the spread of germs during sleep as well as to ensure adequate space for access in case of an emergency.
Expects healthful, sanitary provisions for nap/rest linens, but does not provide a cleaning schedule.	All nap bedding must be cleaned weekly. Soiled bedding shall be cleaned before it is reused.
Expects cots to be separated by 36 inches or a solid barrier.	At least 36 inches of open space from other napping children or furniture/equipment is required on three sides of nap equipment. The expectation is for all children to be separated in this manner to prevent the spread of germs during sleep as well as to insure adequate space for access in case of an emergency.

Where Can the PA Position Statements be Found? Practitioners receive copies of the PA Position Statements at the ERS Professional Development sessions for each ERS scale. Additional copies in both color and printer-friendly versions can be found on the [PA Keys website](#).