

PQAS and Professional Development Requirements

In the revised Keystone STARS program, providers have much more choice around what professional development they pursue. While programs may use their own funds to purchase professional development from any content experts they would like, all professional development funded through the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) is offered by **PQAS instructors**.

Pennsylvania’s Quality Assurance System (PQAS) is designed to ensure quality professional development (PD) and technical assistance (TA) is provided to early childhood and school-age practitioners in Pennsylvania. Approved instructors are required to meet and maintain established qualifications, including educational achievements and professional development experience. When choosing a PQAS approved instructor you can be sure your staff will be receiving quality instruction from a content expert.

Non-PQAS approved Content experts can also deliver professional development trainings on appropriate topics (pediatrician on health-related issues, lawyer on legal issues, accountant on business issues, etc.). Please refer to the chart below.

Content Expert/Resource	Content	STARS Performance Standard(s)
Medical Professional	Health-related issues	FC.3.4.1 LM.3.4.10
Legal Professional	Legal issues	LM.2.2 FC.2.1 FC.2.4
Financial Services Professional	Business/Budget issues	LM.2.1 LM.3.4.7
Dietary Professional	Nutrition	Bonus
Vendors (See examples)	Examples: Teaching Strategies <i>Creative Curriculum</i> Pearson <i>Work Sampling System</i> <i>and The Ounce Scale</i>	EC.2.3 SQ.3.4.6 SQ.3.4.7 SQ.3.4.8

STAR 3 and 4 Indicators

SQ 3.4.6, 3.4.7 and 3.4.8:

- All staff, unless otherwise enrolled in a credit-bearing course, should take PD in all three of the following:
 - Curriculum
 - Developmental Screening
 - Child Observation-Based Assessment

All three topics should be in the specific curriculum, or tool chosen and in use by, the program; best practice would be for all participating staff to take this training directly from the vendor. When this is cost-prohibitive other options are also acceptable. Please refer to the chart below.

Topics ¹ : • Curriculum • Developmental Screening • Child Observation-Based Assessment	Accepted Professional Development	Additional PD Required	Documentation Required
Option 1	Training directly from the vendor (excluding webinars).	No	a. Certificate of completion from vendor
Option 2	PQAS Training in the specific curriculum, screening tool or assessment tool. Dependent on vendor requirement instructor delivery.	No	a. Professional Development Learning Record- verified PQAS hours
Option 3	Taking part in vendor-offered webinars in the specific curriculum, screening tool or assessment.	Yes PQAS training in the general topics of curriculum, developmental screening or child observation-based assessment*	a. Both the staff person and a member of the program leadership team should sign off on the screenshot/certificate of completion. AND b. Professional Development Learning Record-verified PQAS hours
Option 4	On-site information sharing to take place between a Master Teacher or Leadership Team Member and the individual staff person.	Yes PQAS training in the general topics of curriculum, developmental screening or child observation-based assessment*	a. Sharing sessions should be structured, organized and documented with sign-offs from both the "trainer" and the staff. AND Professional Development Learning Record- verified PQAS hours

Examples include: *Assessment: Beyond the Basics of Observation and Data Utilization; Linking Standards, Curriculum Framework, and Assessment; Using Ages and Stages Questionnaires as a Screening Tool; Director Instructor Child Observation series.*

¹ These topics may be found in the PA PD Registry. www.papdregistry.org.