Spark Current Procedures General Overview

Thursday, August 15th, 2024

Activity



Yes

No

Should I still encourage programs to participate in Spark during redesign?



Yes

Spark is still accepting applications and has multiple pathways to participate.

Spark Redesign

- Spark is in the process of being redesigned by a community engagement model since **January 2023**.
- Input was gathered from providers, parents, and other professionals in the ECE field presenting a diverse range of program types, roles, race, ethnicity, language, and geographic area. Information was collected and analyzed by 2 Listening Groups and Transition Team.
- The Redesign Plan with **7 High-level Concepts Proposal** was submitted to DELC in **June 2024** as a collective effort of the Accountability Team (diverse group of 14 early educators and parents) worked since November 2023.
- The proposal focuses on Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) while ensuring that Spark participation is inclusive, equitable, and supportive for providers, programs, children, and families.

Do programs need to be ERDC-listed to participate in Spark?



No

All licensed programs and some licensed exempt programs have pathways to participate in Spark.

- ERDC listed: 2 pathways
- Non-ERDC listed: 1 pathway

Benefits of Participation

- Professional recognition
- Program improvement
- Access to resources
- Financial supports & incentives
- Marketing to families and community
- *a way to help demonstrate that program cares about having the best program possible!*

Should I tell programs to stop working on the portfolio?



No

Spark is still reviewing portfolios and renewal submissions. Please encourage programs to keep working on the portfolio.
Note: Programs must be ERDC-listed to receive a rating.

Can programs participate in Spark if they are not ERDC-listed?



Yes

QI Cycle is an alternative way for all programs (ERDC-listed and non ERDC-listed)

2 Pathways for Spark Process

1. Portfolio Path: Complete a portfolio to achieve a rating (**must be listed with ERDC**)
2. QI Cycle Path: Complete a 12-month Quality Improvement Cycle – choose and work on a goal of choice (**can be listed with ERDC or not**)

Both options enable programs to:

- Participate in Spark and receive the Commitment to Quality (C2Q) designation
- Receive Spark Support Funds ($1,000 minimum)
- Have a framework to reflect on their program and make quality improvements (Portfolio or QI Cycle Forms).
- Receive incentive funds after achievement of rating or completion of QI Cycle. ($ varies)

Are Support funds still available for new participating programs?



Yes

When the program passes compliance and receives a C2Q rating, they can submit the Request for Support funds form. *(Certain public funded programs are not eligible. i.e. Head Start)*

Support Funds Amounts

Program Size (Licensed Capacity)	Amount
Small (0-20) / License Exempt	$1,000
Medium (21-49)	$1,500
Large (50+)	$2,000

Is the Spark Program Update Report (SPUR) only for updating program information?



No

The SPUR can be used for:

1. Updating information
2. Requesting an updated certificate (Renewal)
3. Rating reinstatement
4. Portfolio replacement
5. Rating transfer
6. Rating maintenance

https://oregonspark.org/current-participants/

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Spark Program Update Report

The Spark Program Update Report (SPUR) is used to update information and/or request an extension or a reinstatement of a star rating. It will also collect information about continuous quality improvement efforts, and your commitment to maintain quality standards. Completing this report annually is required for programs to remain eligible for future opportunities through Spark, such as additional funding.

Go to the **electronic version of the Spark Program Update Report**.



Spark Program Update Report (SPUR) Snapshot

A. Program Information Update/Verification

What is the purpose of completing this report? (choose all that apply) *

- [ ] 1. Updating information - there has been a change or it's been more than a year since we completed a SPUR or submitted an application or portfolio.
- [ ] 2. Updated certificate needed showing my rating is current. (If your rating has expired, you will be emailed a 3-month temporary certificate and information about completing a Rating Renewal to receive a 12-month extended certificate)
- [ ] 3. I would like to have my program's star rating reinstated after a revocation.
- [ ] 4. I need a replacement portfolio.
- [ ] 5. I would like to request a rating transfer due to a license number change.
- [ ] 6. Requested by TRI staff for a Rating Maintenance.

1. Program Name (Submit a separate report for each physical location) *

2. My program is *

- ○ Licensed
- ○ License Exempt

Do Spark rated programs need to renew their ratings? (3, 4, and 5-Star)



Yes

Renewal is part of the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI), Spark encourages programs to renew their star rating annually after the initial 3-year certificate is awarded. Incentives are available!

Rating Renewal Options

- Original Portfolio Resubmission for higher rating
- Renewal Portfolio (remain the same star level)
- On-Site Observation
- Collaborative Quality Improvement Activities
- Professional Development Activities

Available Resources

Quality Improvement & additional materials:

- ❑ Spark website: oregonspark.org
- ❑ Oregon QRIS Resources Website: OregonQRISResources.org

Portfolio, Financial & General Spark Information:

- ❑ Quality Improvement Specialist at local CCR&R or Hub
- ❑ The Research Institute:
  - Spark Helpline: 1-877-768-8290
  - Email: qrishelp@wou.edu
  - Website: oregonspark.org

Exploring Resources

- Spark site for Early Educators: https://oregonspark.org
- The Steps for Participating in Spark (Early Educators): https://oregonspark.org/interested-participants/
- Materials for Participating in Spark: https://oregonspark.org/interested-participants/ (Early Educators – Interested Participants)
- Data & News: https://oregonspark.org/data-news/

- Materials for **Current** Spark Participants:
  - Observation and Assessment: https://oregonspark.org/observation-assessment/
  - Rating Renewal: https://oregonspark.org/early-educators/portfolio-renewals/
  - Spark site for Families: https://oregonspark.org/families

Exploring Resources - QIS Portal

https://oregonspark.org/qis-portal/

- Early Educators Materials:
  - Updated Introduction to Spark training
  - Info and materials about Spark process
- News & Updates:
  - Spark monthly webinar recordings and PowerPoints
- Spark monthly Update Email is sent the **first Monday of the month**



- For providers who are ready to submit their portfolio for a 3-star rating but are currently at step 6 in ORO, do they need to wait until they reach step 7 to submit, or can they submit now since they are ready?

- If a provider currently has a 4-star rating and is not yet ready to submit for a 5-star rating, will they need to renew their 4-star rating every year until they are prepared to apply for the 5-star rating?



Thank you!