Parent Aware Ratings for Public Programs

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Ten Minnesota Commitments to Equity

1. Prioritize equity.

2. Start from within.

3. Measure what matters.

4. Go local.

5. Follow the money.

6. Start early.

7. Monitor implementation of standards.

8. Value people.

9. Improve conditions for learning.

10. Give students options.

Agenda

- Parent Aware Overview

- Parent Aware Rating Process

- Overview of Requirements

- Training Requirements

- Acceptable Training Documentation

- Training Sources and Opportunities

- How to Prepare and Resources

- Questions

Parent Aware Overview

Minnesota Department of Education | education.mn.gov

- Parent Aware is Minnesota's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). It is a state-funded program that supports:

Programs

- Observe and evaluate high quality early education programs.
- Helps programs build and maintain quality practices.

Families

- Offers tools and resources to help families find quality child care and early education programs.

Organizational Roles for Parent Aware

Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS)

- Implements and oversees Minnesota's Quality Rating and Improvement System: Parent Aware.
- Provides coordination for childcare licensing, childcare assistance program (CCAP) and other statewide public programs.

Parent Aware Rating Team

- Child Care Aware of Minnesota provides evaluation and coordination on overall Parent Aware Rating process on behalf of the Department of Human Services.

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)

- Provides support and technical assistance to school districts participating in Parent Aware and guidance on professional development opportunities and requirements.

Program Types Eligible for a Rating

- **Districts and Charters:**

  - Public school districts following School Readiness statute 124D.15.

  - Charter school early childhood programs recognized by MDE.

  - Districts/charters operating voluntary prekindergarten (VPK).

  - Child care/licensed family child care partners of the district/charter.

- **Head Start:**

  - Center-based Early Head Start and Head Start programs.

  - Child care/licensed family child care partners of the Head Start.

- **Licensed child care centers**

- **Licensed family child care centers**

Not eligible:
- Family friend and neighbor care
- Certified non-public school managed programs (i.e., private preschools exempt from licensing)
- School age programs

Public Program Pathways to Rating

- Public programs earn a rating in one of two Pathways:

1. **Accelerated Pathway**

   - Eligible programs: Districts meeting school readiness statutory requirements and charter schools with MDE-recognized early learning programs.

   - Complete the Accelerated Pathway Application process and submit documentation to Parent Aware.

2. **Automatic Pathway**

   - Eligible programs: Districts and charter voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) programs Head Start programs and.

   - Complete the rating process as part of the annual Head Start Program Plan or VPK Application and do not submit documentation directly to Parent Aware.

Differences between Child Care and Public Programs

- Child care programs earn a rating through the **Full-Rating**, **Expedited**, or **Accelerated** Pathway to rating.

    - These processes can include training, coaching, and other support provided directly by Parent Aware.

    - Child care programs can have a Signed Participation Agreement,

- School readiness, VPK, and Head Start requirements meet or exceed many Parent Aware, so they can go through a streamlined process to earn a Parent Aware Rating.

    - Public programs are either not rated or earn Four Stars.

Parent Aware Rating Process

- Parent Aware ratings are valid for two years.

- Districts must re-rate prior to their expiration date to continue their rating.

- The process you will follow depends on the funding/program your district operates:

  - School readiness or school readiness plus (no VPK): **Accelerated Pathway**

  - VPK: **Automatic Pathway**

- **Process:** Eight weeks prior to a program's expiration date submit the following forms to the Parent Aware Rating Team:

    1. Parent Aware Application

    2. Parent Aware Training Inventory

    3. Supporting Lead Teacher training documentation

    4. Parent Aware Participation Agreement

- **Instructions and Forms:** Find instructions and application materials on the [Parent Aware Accelerated Pathway Application for Public School Pre-K webpage](#).

- **Rating Dates:** Rating dates are based on the date your district/charter was initially rated; contact ParentAware.MDE@state.mn.us if you are unsure of your expiration date.

- **Process:** VPK districts and charters complete the re-rating process as part of the annual VPK funding application.

  - Within the January application: Curriculum and assessment details, Parent Aware Participation Agreement

  - In March: Confirm site details.

  - MDE submits this information on your behalf to the Parent Aware Rating Team.

- **Instructions and Forms:** MDE contacts eligible districts with details.

- **Rating Dates:** All VPK districts/charters have the same rating dates:

  - April 30, 2022 – April 30, 2024

  - April 30, 2024 – April 30, 2026

Parent Aware Requirements Overview

- **Program Requirements:** Classrooms must meet [school readiness statutory requirements](#) or [VPK statutory requirements](#).

  - This includes program requirements (instruction, family engagement, transitions, etc.) as well as staff/supervision requirements.

  - View the [Preschool Program Comparison Chart](#) for a grid comparing requirements

- **Curriculum:** Use a [Parent Aware aligned curriculum](#).

- **Assessment**: Use a [Parent Aware approved assessment tool](#).

- **Training:** Lead teachers in school readiness classrooms must meet Parent Aware training hour requirements.

➢ *To be eligible for a rating, extended day/wrap-around programming must also meet these requirements.*

- Comprehensive child assessment

- Instructional practice aligned with state early childhood learning guidelines

- Coordinate kindergarten transition

- Involve parents in planning and decision making

- Coordinate with community-based services

- Cooperate with adult basic education and other adult literacy programs

Classrooms must meet the following requirements to be Parent Aware rated. Parent Aware does not have separate staffing/supervision/program requirements.

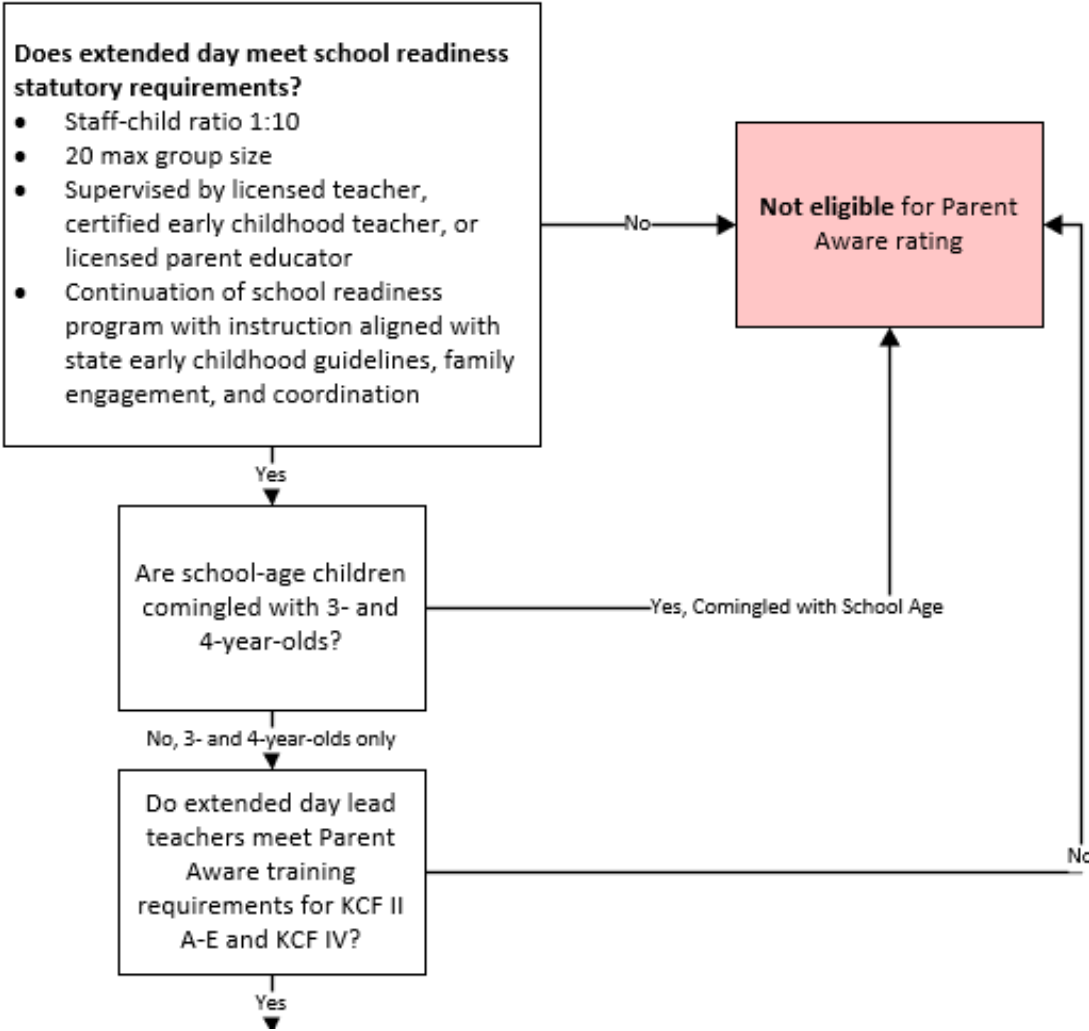| Requirement	School Readiness	VPK
Teacher qualifications	• Knowledgeable in early childhood curriculum content, assessment, native and English language development programs and instruction. • No license requirement.	• Knowledgeable in early childhood curriculum content, assessment, native and English language development programs and instruction. • Provide comparable pay to K-12. • No license requirement
Supervision	• Supervised by licensed early childhood teacher, certified early childhood educator, or licensed parent educator.	• No statutory requirement regarding supervision.
Ratio and group size	• Staff-to-child ratios of one-to-ten and max group size of 20.	• Staff-to-child ratios of one-to-ten and max group size of 20.

Extended Day/Wraparound Requirements

- Eligibility requirements:

  - Extended day and wrap-around programming must meet VPK or school readiness standards to be rated.

  - Lead teachers in extended day and wrap-around programming must meet the Parent Aware training requirements.

  - Extended day programming is rated as a separate "site" to demonstrate all requirements are met.

- Not eligible:

  - If extended day or wrap-around programming **does not** meet VPK or school readiness standards, these programs cannot be included in your rating.

  - Programming that combines preschoolers with school age children is not eligible.
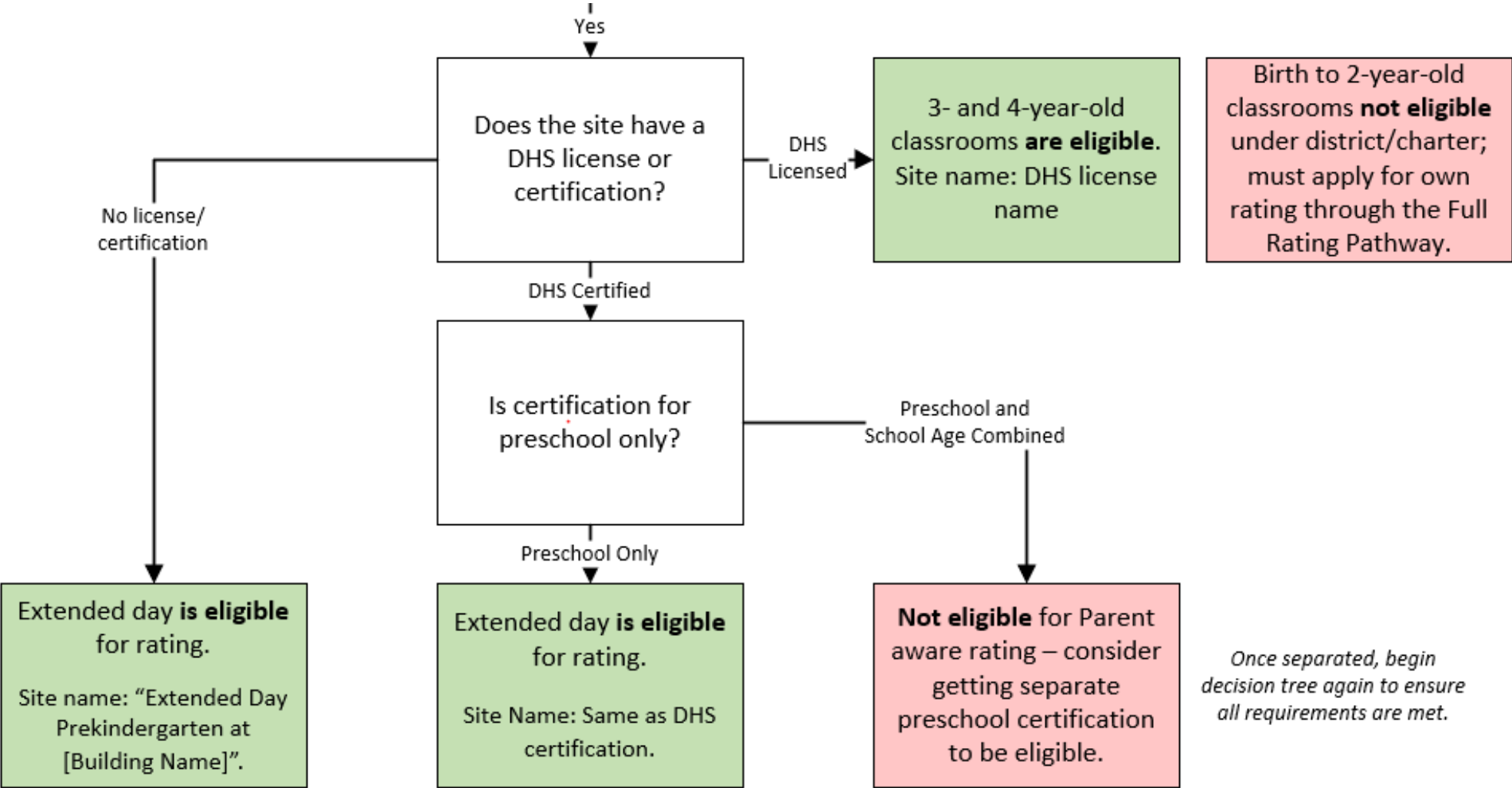
- Some districts and charter schools have a Department of Human Services (DHS) licensed or certified site(s). This allows them to accept the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) at the site.

- Certified/licensed sites must meet all of the same extended day requirements listed on the previous page, and:

  - Certified child care must have a preschool certification separate from school age care to be included in the Parent Aware rating.

  - Licensed child care sites: Only 3- and 4-year-old classrooms can be included in your district's Parent Aware rating.

    - Birth to 2-year-old programming would need to pursue a separate Parent Aware rating through the Full Rating Pathway to become rated.

Does extended day meet school readiness statutory requirements?
- Staff-child ratio 1:10
- 20 max group size
- Supervised by licensed teacher, certified early childhood teacher, or licensed parent educator
- Continuation of school readiness program with instruction aligned with state early childhood guidelines, family engagement, and coordination

— No → **Not eligible** for Parent Aware rating

Yes ↓

Are school-age children comingled with 3- and 4-year-olds?

— Yes, Comingled with School Age →

No, 3- and 4-year-olds only ↓

Do extended day lead teachers meet Parent Aware training requirements for KCF II A-E and KCF IV?

— No →

Yes ↓

Yes

Does the site have a DHS license or certification?

No license/ certification

DHS Licensed → 3- and 4-year-old classrooms **are eligible**. Site name: DHS license name

Birth to 2-year-old classrooms **not eligible** under district/charter; must apply for own rating through the Full Rating Pathway.

DHS Certified ↓

Is certification for preschool only?

Preschool and School Age Combined

Preschool Only ↓

Extended day **is eligible** for rating.

Site name: "Extended Day Prekindergarten at [Building Name]".

Extended day **is eligible** for rating.

Site Name: Same as DHS certification.

Not eligible for Parent aware rating – consider getting separate preschool certification to be eligible.

Once separated, begin decision tree again to ensure all requirements are met.

Training Requirements

Training Documentation Summary

- Lead teachers in **school readiness classrooms** must meet the minimum Parent Aware training requirements:

  - Their age-appropriate license or 10 hours of training in Knowledge and Competency Framework (KCF) II A-E: Developmentally Appropriate Learning Experiences, and

  - All lead teachers (licensed and unlicensed) must have 10 hours of training in KCF IV A-B: Assessment, Evaluation, and Individualization.

- Lead teachers in **VPK classrooms** must keep documentation that they are meeting VPK statutory requirements.

- Note: Training documentation must be within **five years** of the re-rating date.

Foundation for Parent Aware Training Requirements

- Parent Aware promotes high quality early education that is based on age-appropriate learning experiences outlined in Minnesota's Early Childhood Indicators of Progress (ECIP's).

- The Knowledge Competency Framework (KCFs) is what the teacher needs to know to be able to effectively teach the ECIP standards.

  - The KCF framework combines research and theory, alongside the skills and abilities needed to work effectively in the field to promote high quality education for children birth through 5.

  - This is why training requirements are categorized by the KCF content areas when applying for a Parent Aware rating.

The Knowledge and Competency Framework (KCFs) contains **ten content areas** that are each a contributing factor to the ability for a teacher to be an effective classroom leader in an early childhood learning environment.

KCF Content Areas:

I. Child Development and Learning

II. Developmentally Appropriate Learning Experiences

III. Relationships with Families

IV. Assessment, Evaluation and Individualization

V. Historical and Contemporary Development of Early Childhood Education

VI. Professionalism

VII. Health, Safety and Nutrition

VIII. Application through Clinical Experiences

IX. Trauma Informed Care and Practice

X. Working with Multilingual Children and Families

Parent Aware KCF Training Hour Requirements

While all 10 areas are important, public programs have Parent Aware training hour requirements in **two** of the KCF Content Areas: **II and IV.**

KCF Content Areas:

I.   Child Development and Learning

II.   **Developmentally Appropriate Learning Experiences**

III.   Relationships with Families

IV.   **Assessment, Evaluation and Individualization**

V.   Historical and Contemporary Development of Early Childhood Education

VI.   Professionalism

VII.   Health, Safety and Nutrition

VIII.   Application through Clinical Experiences

IX.   Trauma Informed Care and Practice

X.   Working with Multilingual Children and Families

- If a lead teachers is **unlicensed**, you must submit documentation of 10 hours in KCF II A-E.

- If a lead teacher has an **approved teaching license** you will not be required to submit additional training documentation for this KCF area because the valid license fulfills/meets the training requirements.

  - 180102 – Prekindergarten

  - 180103 – Prekindergarten and Kindergarten

  - 180105 – Pre-Primary

  - 180150 – Early Childhood Education

  - 180402 – Family Education/Early Childhood Educator

  - 190500 – Early Childhood Special Education

KCF IV: Assessment, Evaluation, and Individualization

- **All lead teachers** (licensed and unlicensed) must have 10 hours of training in KCF IV A-B: Assessment, Evaluation, and Individualization.

Documentation Process – Accelerated vs. Automatic

- **Accelerated Pathway (School Readiness)**

  - Required to submit documentation with re-rating application.
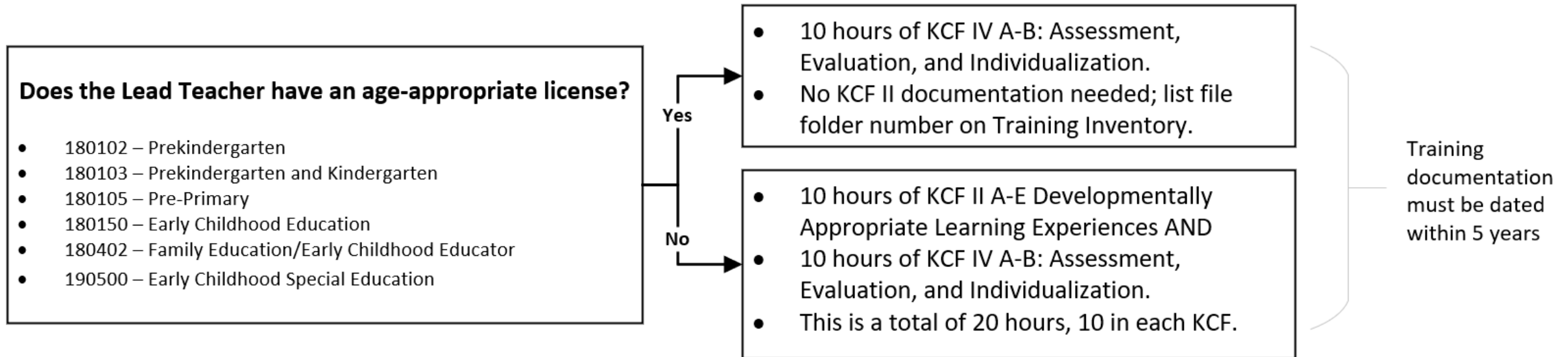
- **Automatic Pathway (VPK)**

  - Required to maintain documentation for classrooms operating school readiness, but keep on file.

  - Documentation may be requested as part of monitoring/documentation review.
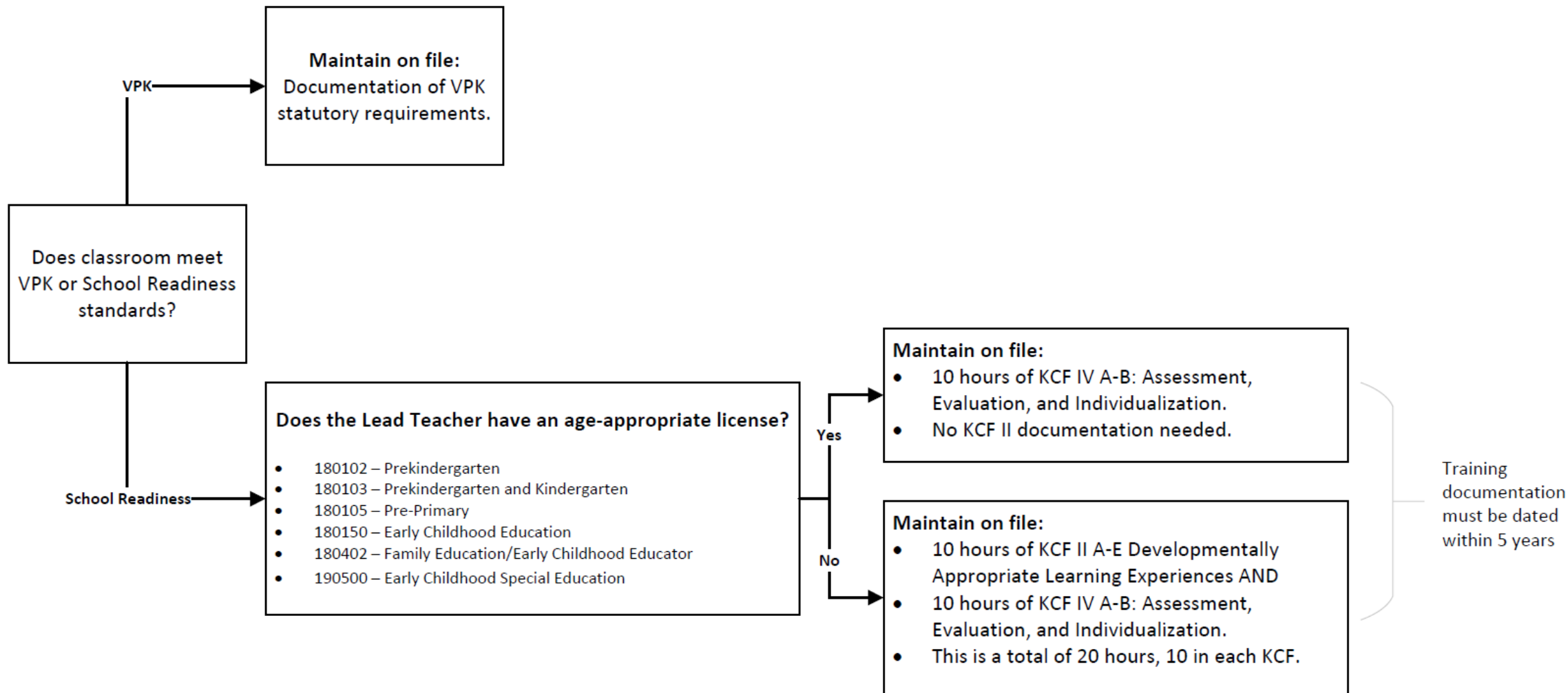
Submit the following documentation with your re-rating application:

Does the Lead Teacher have an age-appropriate license?

- 180102 – Prekindergarten
- 180103 – Prekindergarten and Kindergarten
- 180105 – Pre-Primary
- 180150 – Early Childhood Education
- 180402 – Family Education/Early Childhood Educator
- 190500 – Early Childhood Special Education

Yes →
- 10 hours of KCF IV A-B: Assessment, Evaluation, and Individualization.
- No KCF II documentation needed; list file folder number on Training Inventory.

No →
- 10 hours of KCF II A-E Developmentally Appropriate Learning Experiences AND
- 10 hours of KCF IV A-B: Assessment, Evaluation, and Individualization.
- This is a total of 20 hours, 10 in each KCF.

Training documentation must be dated within 5 years

VPK → **Maintain on file:** Documentation of VPK statutory requirements.

Does classroom meet VPK or School Readiness standards?

School Readiness → **Does the Lead Teacher have an age-appropriate license?**

- 180102 – Prekindergarten
- 180103 – Prekindergarten and Kindergarten
- 180105 – Pre-Primary
- 180150 – Early Childhood Education
- 180402 – Family Education/Early Childhood Educator
- 190500 – Early Childhood Special Education

Yes → **Maintain on file:**
- 10 hours of KCF IV A-B: Assessment, Evaluation, and Individualization.
- No KCF II documentation needed.

No → **Maintain on file:**
- 10 hours of KCF II A-E Developmentally Appropriate Learning Experiences AND
- 10 hours of KCF IV A-B: Assessment, Evaluation, and Individualization.
- This is a total of 20 hours, 10 in each KCF.

Training documentation must be dated within 5 years

Acceptable Training Documentation

- When you re-rate, you will need to submit documentation for each lead teacher.

- The Parent Aware Rating Team will review documentation to ensure:

  - It falls under the appropriate KCF

  - Each lead teacher has enough hours

  - It is dated within the past five years

Acceptable Training Documentation

- Approved Minnesota Teaching license (for KCF II A-E)

- Develop Individual ID

- Approved training course certificate/certificate of attendance

- College course transcript

- Certificate for an MDE training course

- Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Training Record

Certificates must include:

✓ Attendees Name

✓ Title of training related to Developmentally Appropriate Learning Experiences and/or assessment

✓ Date the training was completed

✓ Total number of hours

✓ The name of the organization who delivered training. For district trainings, the district name.

College course transcript must include:

- ✓ Course name

- ✓ Course catalogue number

- ✓ Number of credits awarded (1 semester credit = 15 hours of training allowable to document)

- ✓ Date course was completed

Sign in sheets must include:

✓ Name of training related to Developmentally Appropriate Learning Experiences or Assessment

✓ Date the training was completed

✓ Total number of hours

✓ Supervisor or trainer signature on sign in sheet

District/Charter schools and/or Head Start or Professional Development Database Record:

✓ Name of training related to Developmentally Appropriate Learning Experiences and/or assessment, date, hours

✓ Develop Individual ID from Achieve KCF Individual Learning Record (if applicable)

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

PLCs can count towards your training hours if you have a facilitated process, with a specific agenda and dated participation that includes the number of hours and content. These are what the raters will review and look for:

- ✓ Date and number of hours

- ✓ Sign in of some sort to verify attendance/participation

- ✓ Trainer, facilitator, PD coordinator name

- ✓ Description of the learning objectives of each session

Training Sources and Opportunities

- Training hours can come from a variety of sources:

  - Training within your district including in-service, PD days, PLCs, etc.

  - Conferences or external training

  - Online trainings

- Training hours must be within five years of the submission date.

  - Lead teachers can use training hours from previous districts/jobs/college courses.

Opportunities for Professional Development

- Develop

- Pro Training

- Assessment Literacy for Early Educators: Unpacking Intentional Child Assessment

- Continuing Education Clock Hour Report System

- Minnesota Reading Corps

- Pyramid (TACSEI

- Early Education Conferences

- District Services Trainings

- CEED Authentic Assessment Learning Modules

View the [Parent Aware Training Guidance Document](#) for additional details and links to these opportunities.

Common Training Programs

- MDE staff have cross walked some common initiatives/training models to determine the number of hours eligible for each KCF.

  - LETRS

  - Pyramid Model

  - Classroom Engagement Model (CEM)

If a lead teacher completes **Units 1-4 of the LETRS Training for Early Childhood Educators**, this counts for:

- KCF II A-E: **7 hours**
- KCF IV A-B: **3 hours**

KCF Content Area	KCF Hours for Units 1-4 of the LETRS Training for Early Childhood Educators
Content Area I: Child Development and Learning *Hours can count towards one or split across the following:* A. Understanding Child Development Competencies B. Understanding Influences on Child Development	20
Content Area II: Developmentally Appropriate Learning Experiences **A. Promoting Cognitive Development**	**7**
Content Area IV: Assessment, Evaluation and Individualization **A. Observing, Recording and Assessing Development or**	**3**
Content Area V: Historical and Contemporary Development of Early Childhood Education A. Understanding Foundations of Early Childhood Development	3

If a lead teacher completes **Pyramid Model Preschool Tier 1, 2, and 3 and PTR-YC Training**, this counts for:

- KCF II A-E: **12 hours**
- KCF IV A-B: **4.5 hours**

Training	Hours and Content Area
Pyramid Model Preschool Tier 1 Training	**II.A: Creating Positive Learning Experiences (2.5 Hours)** **II.C: Promoting Social and Emotional Development (2.5 Hours)**
Pyramid Model Preschool Tier 2 Training	**II.A: Creating Positive Learning Experiences (2.5 Hours)** **II.C: Promoting Social and Emotional Development (2.5 Hours)**
Pyramid Model Tier 3 Training	I: Child Development and Learning **(1 Hour)** **II.C: Promoting Social and Emotional Development (1 Hour)** **IV.A: Observing, Recording and Assessing Development (1.5 Hours)** **IV.B: Assessing and Using Information to Plan (1 Hour)** IV.C: Assessing and Using Information to Enhance and Maintain Program Quality **(1 Hour)**
Prevent Teach Reinforce for Young Children (PTR-YC)	I: Child Development and Learning **(1 Hour)** **II.C: Promoting Social and Emotional Development (1 Hour)** **IV.A: Observing, Recording and Assessing Development (1 Hour)** **IV.B: Assessing and Using Information to Plan (1 Hour)** IV.C: Assessing and Using Information to Enhance and Maintain Program Quality **(1.5 Hours)**

Classroom Engagement Model

If a lead teacher completes **Classroom Engagement Model (CEM) Modules 1-5**, this counts for:
- KCF II A-E: **22 hours**
- KCF IV A-B: **0 hours**

Training	Hours and Content Area
CEM Module 1	II.A: Creating Positive Learning Experiences **(2 Hours)** II.B: Promoting Cognitive Development **(2 Hours)** II.C: Promoting Social and Emotional Development **(2 Hours)**
CEM Module 2	II.A: Creating Positive Learning Experiences **(2 Hours)** II.B: Promoting Cognitive Development **(2 Hours)**
CEM Module 3	II.A: Creating Positive Learning Experiences **(2 Hours)** II.B: Promoting Cognitive Development **(2 Hours)**
CEM Module 4	II.A: Creating Positive Learning Experiences **(2 Hours)** II.B: Promoting Cognitive Development **(2 Hours)**
CEM Module 5	II.A: Creating Positive Learning Experiences **(2 Hours)** II.B: Promoting Cognitive Development **(2 Hours)**

How to Prepare and Resources

- Review documentation for lead teachers

  - Where are staff at now?

  - What district trainings, PLCs, etc. can count?

  - Where are the gaps?

- If your re-rating is approaching soon, consider on-demand, online courses for staff.

  - Develop, Assessment in Early Literacy Webinar (1.5 hours)

- Aim to create an intentional professional learning plan so that staff receive ongoing training hours throughout the two year cycle.

- **Application Forms and Instructions:** Parent Aware Accelerated Pathway Applications – Public School Pre-K webpage.

- **Guidance:** Pathway II Resources webpage

  - Under "Parent Aware Webinars and Resources" section at the bottom.

- **Support:** Contact MDE at ParentAware.MDE@state.mn.us.

  - Do not contact DHS or the Parent Aware rating team with questions, as MDE provides the support for your ratings up until the point you submit.

Questions?

Minnesota Department of Education | education.mn.gov

Thank you!

ParentAware.MDE@state.mn.us