

Preschool Program Quality Assessment (PQA) and the FY14 Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)

What is the OnlinePQA?

A: The OnlinePQA is an electronic version of the Preschool Program Quality Assessment (PQA). The PQA was developed by the HighScope Educational Research Foundation based on the Michigan Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Prekindergarten. It is the program evaluation tool for GSRP.

Is there a cost to use the OnlinePQA?

A: The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has negotiated a subscription rate of \$19.95 per classroom for the OnlinePQA Basic Plan for the 2013-2014 subscription period. Each Intermediate School district (ISD) will be invoiced for the cost by HighScope. The total cost is reported in the ISD portion of the GSRP budget, function code 221.

How do I get started with the OnlinePQA?

A: Because PQA Form B is being updated to reflect a variety of early care programming, the FY14 OnlinePQA *will be available in October* for ISDs to enter the GSRP-hierarchy. Look for a separate email with information about the FY14 ISD subscription to OnlinePQA. ISDs will complete the subscription and enter all GSRP sites and classrooms into the system by November 30, 2013.

Where can I get help?

A: For help with logistical use of OnlinePQA:

- Call HighScope: 888.386.3822 (option 5) M-F 8:00 – 5:30 p.m.
- Email Dianna Luke at dluke@highscope.org.
- The *OnlinePQA User Guide* describes how to generate a variety of reports and is available within the online system:
https://app.redesetgrow.com/resources/highscope/pqa/documents/PQA_Users_Guide.pdf.
- Learn more online at www.OnlinePQA.net

Who completes the PQA?

A: Only an ECS who is a certified PQA reliable assessor completes the observations, interviews and scoring of the OnlinePQA for the MDE. Additionally, persons who may be reported in the Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS) as GSRP Early Childhood Specialists, but who do not have approval from the MDE may only enter 'baseline' data into the OnlinePQA. For these situations, contact your GSRP consultant to discuss options.

Information on a systematic approach to use of the PQA can be found in the *Early Childhood Specialist* section of the *GSRP Implementation Manual*. Reliable assessors will designate these annual reports as "end-of-year" and those without reliable assessor status must designate forms as "baseline." It is not approvable for an ECS to begin the PQA (Form A/Form B) in the Fall, continue to add evidence and scoring throughout the year and then code that as the End-of-Year PQA.

How does an ECS get trained in the PQA and become a PQA Reliable Assessor?

A: Online PQA training is required for all new ECSs and any ECS who is not currently a reliable assessor. View the training schedule at the HighScope website: <http://highscope.org/Content.asp?ContentId=406>. The cost for the course is \$200 per person. Included in the tuition is an online examination. Participants are required to take the exam.

Successful completion of the course work and exam result in participants attaining a credential of *Reliable PQA Assessor*. OnlinePQA training and Reliable Assessor costs are approvable grant expenses.

NEW:

- GSRP ECSs must complete annual recertification to maintain integrity with use of the PQA. Reliable Assessor certificates are valid for one year. Any ECS who attained Reliable Assessor status more than a year ago must re-take the *Preschool Reliability Test* in order to remain a qualified ECS. At this time, additional coursework is not a part of the recertification process.
- The schedule for the Preschool Reliability Test can be accessed at <http://secure.highscope.org/Content.asp?ContentId=406>. Completing the process certifies the individual for one year. It is the responsibility of the ECS to complete the process before certification expires. **It is the responsibility of the ECC to monitor this process.**
- Online Form B training will be offered this academic year for existing GSRP PQA Reliable Assessors and Form B training will be incorporated into online PQA training beginning in 2014.

Are there any other resources for the PQA?

A: Because it is critical that GSRP has a consistent approach to entering evidence and scoring the PQA, MDE staff have worked with HighScope to create *PQA Documentation Notes*. It includes scoring notes and helpful comments for the Early Childhood Specialist, with a goal to help further a common lens for observation, completing the PQA and partnering with the teaching team in continuous improvement efforts.

What is the timeline to complete PQAs?

A: One **PQA Form B** (Agency Items) for each GSRP subrecipient or ISD operating classroom is completed between November 15 and January 15, with data due into the OnlinePQA by January 31. Between March 1 and May 15, the ECS completes the "end of year" observation of each classroom using **PQA Form A** with data due into the OnlinePQA system on May 31.

Are there any responsibilities for the Early Childhood Contact (ECC)?

A: The ECC is responsible to monitor compliance with the PQA reporting requirement. The ECC will access, aggregate and analyze OnlinePQA information to support those serving in the ECS role across the ISD and also inform the creation of an area-wide professional development plan. Each year, the ECC must generate ISD-level reports to monitor that each:

- ECS is a PQA Reliable Assessor.
- GSRP classroom has a Form A.
- Subrecipient has a Form B.
- Form is appropriately coded as per the status of the ECS. Reliable assessors will designate forms as "end-of-year" and those without reliable assessor status must designate forms as "baseline."
- Item has required evidence and data except item III-E, Support for non-English speakers, which is completed as appropriate.

[Office of Great Start Outcomes](#)

Children are born healthy.

Children are healthy, thriving and developmentally on track from birth to third grade.

Children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at time of school entry.

Children are prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of third grade.