



Rule 11 PreK District Support Plan FAQ



Q: Will districts be able to view the rubric that will be used to assign support levels?

A: The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) has a detailed rubric used to determine the support levels on their website.

Q: Is this a voluntary program and is there a cost? Will all preschool programs need to participate?

A: The support plans are determined on an annual basis utilizing data that is already collected by the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and therefore there is no cost to school districts. These support plans are designed for all school districts and ESU's that operate a Rule 11 program.

Q: Will the support plan help to include more of our own district principals and Superintendents?

A: The support plans are an opportunity for all those involved in the early childhood program to collaborate with the goal of continuous quality improvement. The involvement of administration at various levels will help make sure the plan is sustainable long-term.

Q: What will the time commitment be for districts? Will there be extra data to keep track of?

A: The support plans are determined on an annual basis utilizing data that is already collected by the OEC and therefore there is no additional data to track. The time commitment will be individualized for each district. Districts may have an ITERS, ECERS-3 or CLASS observation along with check-ins with an education specialist. The amount of time dedicated to these supports will be determined by each district, depending on their need and capacity.

Q: Will each district have a coach or support person?

A: Each district has an Early Childhood Education Specialist assigned to them, just as they have had in previous years. The [map of assigned areas](#) for the Education Specialists can be found on the [Results Matter Nebraska website](#). For more in-depth coaching, districts can participate in Nebraska's [Step Up to Quality](#).

Q: Step Up to Quality is not required currently, correct?

A: Step Up to Quality remains a voluntary program, however, one of the benefits of participating is access to free coaching. For more information on Step Up to Quality, please visit: www.education.ne.gov/stepuptoquality

Q: How will the NDE determine which observation tool is used?

A: The observation tool used for your district will depend on which support plan your district is participating in. For the Standard and Focused support plans, districts may choose ERS or CLASS. For the Advanced support plan, districts will receive an ERS observation.

Q: When will we be notified if we are having an ECERS or CLASS observation?

A: Each district will be contacted by their Education Specialist in August to verify which level of support will be provided for their early childhood program for the 2024-2025 school year. Programs that will be observed in the fall will receive email notification in August, while programs that will be observed in the spring will receive email notification in January.

For more information regarding observations, please refer to the Program Outcomes section of the [Results Matter Nebraska website](#).

Q: Will districts have the opportunity to self-assess using the rubric first?

A: The rubric will be made available to districts and can be utilized in future school years as a guide for self-assessment.

Q: Will the Rule 11 reporting change?

A: No. The OEC intends to utilize the current reporting processes.

Q: Will it be public knowledge as to what level of support each district is receiving?

A: The support plans determined for each district are intended to be a framework for individualized continuous quality improvement. It is not an evaluation or an assessment of the program. Therefore, there is no intention of the NDE making this information public knowledge. The NDE will share support plan levels with ESU staff to aid in collaboration and to provide additional layers of support to districts.