

2015-16 Pre-K Quality Snapshot - Frequently Asked Questions for Educators

The Pre-K Quality Snapshot gives families an overview of each pre-K program and features data from program assessments (ECERS-R/CLASS), the Quality Review for district schools, and the NYC School Survey. This frequently asked questions document is meant to help answer questions that you may have about the Pre-K Quality Snapshot and how it relates to your program. A more detailed Technical Guide for Educators will be available in the “Pre-K Quality Snapshot” section of the [pre-K Educator page](#) starting on January 17, 2017.

Overview of the Pre-K Quality Snapshot

What is the purpose of the Pre-K Quality Snapshot?

- The Pre-K Quality Snapshot supports the Pre-K for All mission of providing children and families with free, full-day, high-quality pre-K options and partnering with families from the beginning to support their children’s learning. Families will now have more information about pre-K programs in an even more accessible format to help them make informed decisions for their children.

What information is included in the Pre-K Quality Snapshot?

- The Pre-K Quality Snapshot provides a concise overview of each pre-K program’s quality in alignment with the DOE’s research-based [Framework for Great Schools](#) and the [Pre-K for All Program Quality Standards](#). The Snapshot features data on aspects of pre-K program quality that we know from research support student learning and draws information from program assessments (ECERS-R/CLASS), the Quality Review (for district schools) and the NYC School Survey to present a multifaceted overview of every Pre-K for All program.

When is the Pre-K Quality Snapshot being publicly released?

- Pre-K Quality Snapshots will be publicly released on January 17, 2017 concurrent with the opening of the pre-K application period.

How often will the Pre-K Quality Snapshot be released, and how will the DOE refine the tool for future releases?

- The DOE plans to make updated Pre-K Quality Snapshots available on an annual basis. As we reflect and plan for future Snapshot releases, we will continue to consider refinements to the Pre-K Quality Snapshot with feedback from practitioners and experts in order to provide families with the most accurate portrait of pre-K quality.

How was the Pre-K Quality Snapshot developed?

- The development of the Pre-K Quality Snapshot is part of the DOE’s ongoing effort to share program quality information with families. In 2015, prior to the development of the Snapshot, the DOE shared our vision for pre-K quality through the release of the [Pre-K for All Program Quality Standards](#). Additionally, in December 2015, we publicly released ECERS-R and CLASS data for every Pre-K for All program across the city. Building on these initiatives, we collaborated with DECE staff, Superintendents, and DOE leadership to develop the Pre-K Quality Snapshot in the spring, 2015. We shared an initial draft of the Snapshot with Pre-K for All programs, DECE field staff, parents, researchers, and other stakeholders in June, 2016. In the spring and summer 2016, the



DOE completed an extensive feedback and review process, including focus groups with parents in all five boroughs, in order to ensure that the Snapshot provided the most important information for families in a clear and accurate way.



How does the Pre-K Quality Snapshot compare to the K12 Snapshot?

- Like the K-12 Snapshot, the Pre-K Quality Snapshot is organized by the research-based [Framework for Great Schools](#) and includes quality data from multiple sources. Also, like the K-12 Snapshot, the Pre-K Quality Snapshot does not include a summative grade of programs.

Data in the Pre-K Quality Snapshot

What data are included in the Pre-K Quality Snapshot?

- The Pre-K Quality Snapshot includes information from a variety of sources, including available program assessment data (CLASS/ECERS-R), the Quality Review (for district schools only), and NYC School Survey data from the most recent school year, if available. The Snapshot is aligned to the research-based [Framework for Great Schools](#) and the [Pre-K for All Program Quality Standards](#).

Why are the data in the Pre-K Quality Snapshot from the last 3 years?

- The Pre-K Quality Snapshot includes the most recent available program assessment data from the last three school years (2013-14, 2014-15, or 2015-16) and NYC School Survey and Quality Review from the 2015-2016 school year. The data in the Snapshot are the most up-to-date program assessment and survey data that the DOE has on a given program.

What is the DECE's schedule for program assessments?

- The DECE is working to increase the pace of assessments so that each program will receive both an ECERS-R and CLASS evaluation at least once every three years. This will mean that over three years, every program will receive at least one CLASS and one ECERS-R evaluation. Because CLASS and ECERS-R data are used for a variety of purposes, such as research and evaluation efforts, more assessments may be administered in some programs at the DECE's discretion.

If the Snapshot features "old" data for my program, is that data still a fair representation of my program?

- CLASS and ECERS-R assessments are considered valid for three years for several reasons. For ECERS-R, because the tool looks comprehensively at the quality of the learning environment, scores have shown to be relatively stable over time. For CLASS, because all or most classrooms are observed and factored into an average program score, these program level scores are also relatively stable over time. For both tools, changing staff approaches to interactions with children and program culture (as it relates to pedagogy) rarely happen in short time spans. Furthermore, the vast majority of states that systematically rate pre-K programs assess programs using CLASS or ECERS-R every two or three years.

What do I do if there is a data error in my Pre-K Quality Snapshot?

- If you have concerns that your ECERS-R, CLASS, or NYC School Survey data do not match your records, please reach out to programassessment@schools.nyc.gov.



Structure of the Pre-K Quality Snapshot



How is the Pre-K Quality Snapshot organized?

- The Pre-K Quality Snapshot displays program quality data across three pages organized by the DOE's research-based [Framework for Great Schools](#) (Rigorous Instruction, Teacher Collaboration, Nurturing and Supportive Environment, Effective School Leadership, Strong Family-Community Ties, and Trust). A more detailed Technical Guide for Educators will be available in the "Pre-K Quality Snapshot" section of the [pre-K Educator page](#) starting on January 17, 2017.

How are program assessment and Quality Review data presented in the Pre-K Quality Snapshot?

- Information from ECERS-R, CLASS and the Quality Review are presented in a 4-bar rating scale. The bars represent where a program falls on a scale of Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor in each indicator.

How are NYC School Survey data presented in the Pre-K Quality Snapshot?

- The survey response numbers in the Pre-K Quality Snapshot reflect the percentage of Pre-K for All families from that program who responded positively to a given question.

Why does the Pre-K Quality Snapshot use bar ratings instead of raw, numerical data?

- Presenting data in bar form is a visually friendly way to represent data for families. The purpose of the 4-bar rating scale is to maintain a high standard for all programs while clearly and accurately communicating important information to families about quality.

How were bar ratings in the Pre-K Quality Snapshot determined?

- Bar ratings were developed based on peer-reviewed research (where available) and on national best practices from other states and districts. For a more technical explanation of the bar ratings, please refer to the Technical Guide for Educators, available in the "Pre-K Quality Snapshot" section of the [pre-K Educator page](#) starting on January 17, 2017.

Does the Pre-K Quality Snapshot include an overall rating for a program?

- There is no "overall rating" or "overall grade" on the Pre-K Quality Snapshot, because there are many components that make up pre-K quality.

Why does the Pre-K Quality Snapshot not include demographic data about my program?

- Unlike K-12 School Quality Snapshots, Pre-K Quality Snapshots do not contain demographic data for programs. Based on an analysis of citywide enrollment in Pre-K for All Programs, pre-K program enrollment and demographics may change from year to year, often because of their smaller program sizes relative to public district schools and because enrollment priorities differ by pre-K setting type. Therefore, demographic data from the current year may not accurately reflect what the demographics of a program may look like the next year.



Program Access and Resources



How is the Pre-K Quality Snapshot useful for me as a pre-K program leader?

- Programs leaders can refer to the Pre-K Quality Snapshot to guide conversations with families during the pre-K enrollment period. You can use the Snapshot in conversation with families to highlight areas of strength and opportunities for growth in your pre-K program. You can also use the Snapshot to target professional development and identify changes that could support quality improvements in your pre-K program in partnership with DOE coaches. You can find more information on how to use CLASS and ECERS-R data in your planning by visiting the program assessments page [here](#).

I have questions about my CLASS/ECERS-R assessments. Where can I get more information?

- For more specific information about CLASS and ECERS-R assessments, review your program's comprehensive reports. To receive an electronic copy of your program's CLASS/ECERS-R reports, email programassessment@schools.nyc.gov.

Where can I find additional resources about the Pre-K Quality Snapshot?

- A pre-recorded webinar and a technical guide for educators will be available for program leaders in the "Pre-K Quality Snapshot" section of the [pre-K Educator page](#) starting on January 17, 2017. Additional family resources will be available [here](#) on January 17, 2017. If you have further questions about the Snapshot, reach out to your DECE Instructional Coordinator, Social Worker, or Operations Analyst.

Family Access and Resources

What is the purpose of the Pre-K Quality Snapshot for families?

- The Pre-K Quality Snapshot is one tool that provides families with information about program quality. The Snapshot supports families to understand different aspects of program quality using consistent information and empowers families to focus on program elements that are most important to them when deciding where to apply to pre-K.

How will families access the Pre-K Quality Snapshot?

- The Pre-K Quality Snapshot will be accessible through the [Pre-K Finder](#) and through the [DOE Performance & Accountability webpage](#). Additionally, select public libraries across the city will feature posters about the Snapshot translated in all official DOE Languages.

How can families use the Pre-K Quality Snapshot?

- The DOE encourages families to use the Pre-K Quality Snapshot as a springboard to ask questions when considering where to apply to pre-K. See a list of recommended questions for families to ask pre-K program leaders and teachers [here](#).



Differences between Pre-K Quality Snapshots for District Schools & NYCEECs



Are there any differences between Pre-K Quality Snapshots for DOE district programs and those for NYCEECs?

- NYCEEC Snapshots and district school Snapshots differ slightly. Teacher survey data and Quality review data only exist for district schools and not for NYCEECs, because there are generally not enough teachers to report data in most NYCEEC programs in a way that does not identify individual teachers. District schools include Quality Review and teacher survey data in the “Collaborative Teachers” section of the Snapshot, while NYCEEC Snapshots include questions that guide families in talking to pre-K programs in the “Collaborative Teachers” section.



What is the School Quality Review (for district schools only)?

- DOE district Schools receive a Quality Review while NYCEECs do not. The Quality Review is a school visit by an experienced educator who visits classrooms, talks with parents, children, teachers, and school leaders, and evaluates how well the school is organized to support student achievement. For DOE district schools only, information from the Quality Review is included in the “Collaborative Teachers” section of the Pre-K Quality Snapshot.

Accountability & Enrollment

My program got low ratings on the Pre-K Quality Snapshot. What do those low ratings mean for my program?

- Information in the Pre-K Quality Snapshot is used as part of the DOE’s approach to support and hold pre-K programs in district schools and NYCEECs accountable for offering high-quality pre-K and may be a factor in the DOE’s decision as to whether a site will offer pre-K in future years. The DOE uses a variety of information sources to make such decisions, including program assessment data and input from our staff who are working closely with programs toward improvement.

Will ratings in the Pre-K Quality Snapshot be used for teacher or principal evaluation?

- Ratings in the Pre-K Quality Snapshot are not to be used for teacher or principal evaluations. The Snapshot is designed to show information about the overall program’s quality, and not any particular classroom or teacher. The observations conducted and/or the reports prepared as part of the ECERS-R, CLASS, or any other assessment of the pre-kindergarten program, shall be used only for purposes of assessing the quality of the pre-K program generally and shall not be placed in any teacher’s official file or used in any action or employment-related decision involving an individual DOE employee (including, but not limited to, any letter to file, rating or tenure determination), and shall not be introduced by the DOE in any disciplinary proceeding, grievance or arbitration, case or action.

How does the DECE Support program improvement?

- The ECERS-R, CLASS, and NYC School Survey data contained in Pre-K Quality Snapshots are one of several data sources that the DECE uses to make decisions about the supports provided to Pre-K for All programs. DECE’s Instructional Coaches and Social Workers will continue to provide



differentiated support to Pre-K for All programs tailored to program needs. Program leaders can use the Snapshot to target professional development and identify changes that can be made to improve quality in Pre-K for All classrooms, in partnership with coaches/support from the DOE.



Can families use the Pre-K Quality Snapshot to request a transfer between Pre-K for All programs mid-year?

- The DOE does not process transfer requests between Pre-K for All placements on the basis of Pre-K Quality Snapshot ratings. If families have questions about enrolling in a Pre-K for All program, direct them to reach out to the Pre-K for All Outreach Team at 212-637-8000.



ECERS-R & CLASS – Personal Care Routines Adjustment

For general information about ECERS-R and CLASS, please visit the program assessments page [here](#). If you have questions about your program’s ECERS-R or CLASS assessment, please refer those questions to programassessment@schools.nyc.gov.

How has the DECE adjusted ECERS-R indicators to be relevant in an urban setting?

- In response to concerns from program leaders and other early childhood educators that some of the Personal Care Routines subscale requirements are very rigid and difficult to meet at the lower end of the scale, the DOE reviewed the Personal Care Routines subscale, which includes metrics for items like cot space during nap/rest, handwashing and cleanliness of outdoor playgrounds. In order to reflect the unique challenges faced by pre-K programs in urban environments, the DOE decided to adjust the Personal Care Routines by moving each bar cutoff down by roughly 1.5-2.0 points. We believe this reflects a high-standard while taking into account the unique challenges faced by pre-K programs in our city. These changes are reflected in the bar ratings in the 2015-16 Pre-K Quality Snapshot.

Additional Resources & Pathways for Questions

Online Resources (posted on January 17, 2017)

- For resources about the Pre-K Quality Snapshot for **families**, visit schools.nyc.gov/Academics/EarlyChildhood/parentfamilies
- For resources about the Pre-K Quality Snapshot for **pre-K programs**, visit schools.nyc.gov/Academics/EarlyChildhood/educators

Questions

Please direct questions to your Instructional Coordinator, Social Worker, or Operations Analyst.

- If you have questions about **ECERS-R/CLASS**, please email programassessment@schools.nyc.gov.
- If a family has questions about **Pre-K for All enrollment**, direct them to call our Pre-K for All Outreach Team at (212) 637-8000.

