



FAQ for Virtual Ratings (v11.17.2020)

Question: We are preparing (or we were told to prepare) for the third edition(s), but will now be rated with the R version(s) for the virtual rating, how is that going to impact our observation scoring?

Answer: The third editions are based solely on what is observed, which is not feasible nor advisable during the pandemic. The R versions have more emphasis on materials, space, and already have interview questions built into the structure of the assessment.

Other considerations to help prepare for the slight variances between the versions:

- Children’s independent access to a variety of materials is important for both versions; however, there are more specific number and type requirements for the R versions. Re-visit the number and types of materials required and be sure you have what is needed to meet the R version requirements. Check with your local EC Council for materials checklist for you if you do not have an R-version of the scale.
- For ECERS-R, the time children have access to materials will be considered for the full session/program hours (Substantial Portion of the Day 1/3 of the day) and be evaluated based on submission of the daily written schedule and follow-up interview questions.
- For ITERS-R, since it would be difficult to evaluate the “Much of the Day” requirement virtually, indicators that include “Much of the Day” will be scored based only on the materials requirement or if independent of materials will be marked NA (not applicable/not scored). The third edition also eliminates the “Much of the Day” requirement.
- Personal Care Routines are similar in both versions and with the virtual rating will be scored either by interview or will be marked NA.

Question: When will we receive provider resources/information for the virtual rating?

Answer: Programs that are scheduled to rate will receive them at the time of the orientation call. Coaches and programs can also access the provider resources on the Clayton Early Learning website:
<https://www.claytonearlylearning.org/quality-assessment-services/our-projects/>

Question: How are the restrictions for materials, social distancing, masks, etc. going to impact our rating?

Answer: The most important thing is keeping yourselves and the children safe and healthy by following all state health/safety mandates and no ERS scores will be impacted negatively for doing so. Some of those specific ERS requirements, such as having soft toys, will be marked NA and will not affect the scoring. Programs going through the virtual rating will receive a list of all items and indicators that will be marked NA.

Question: What is the timeline for the virtual rating? Is it different from the current rating? Will we be given notice of when we are in our rating window?

Answer:

- The rating window will still be a 2 month period, with a slight adjustment for ERS Evidence submission happening during the first month. ERS evidence will primarily be a walk-through video of child care spaces/classrooms recorded during no contact hours.
- Programs will be notified of their rating window approximately 30 days before the window is open.
- Programs will be contacted by their lead assessor a few days before or on first day of the 2 month rating window to complete the orientation call, receive information about the virtual process, and have their documentation portals in QRIS open, and survey links released.
- Programs will have the first month of their rating window to complete their walk-through video(s), upload the video and a few additional documents into Google Drive.
- Interview(s) with teachers/providers will be conducted during the second month and assessors will complete ERS scoring and report writing.
- The L3-L5 Indicators documentation uploading into the QRIS and surveys will remain open for the duration of the 2 month rating window.
- The month following the 2 month rating window, scoring of the L3-L5 indicators, and final edits of ERS reports will happen.
- Programs will receive their rating results no later than the last day of the month that follows their rating window. For example, if a program's 2 month window closes September 30th, they will receive their results no later than October 31st.
- Virtual Ratings will be valid for 3 years.

Question: Will half of our classrooms for each age group still be observed?

Answer: No. Only one classroom for each age group represented will be observed. The age groups are infant (0-11 months), Toddler (12-35 months), and Preschool (36-60 months).

Question: If I have submitted my L3-L5 application but want to opt out or wait until the typical rating resumes will my current rating certificate expire?

Answer:

- **For programs that have submitted their L3-L5 application, your rating level will be held (will NOT drop)** throughout the time we are considered to be in a pandemic. It is important to submit your L3-L5 application to ensure this happens automatically. If your certificate is about to expire, please submit your application before the expiration date to avoid an unintentional dropping of your current rating.
- You can choose to opt out of the virtual rating and **your current rating certificate will NOT expire, if you have submitted your L3-L5 application.** Additionally, if you choose to delay engaging with the virtual process, you will need to communicate with your Early Childhood Council and with Clayton Early Learning - Please contact Josh Franklin Quality Assessment Services Manager jfranklin@claytonearlylearning.org

Question: Will I still have my documentation and surveys open if I opt out of the virtual rating?

Answer: If your documentation window had been opened while the rating was on hold, and you have now decided to opt out of the virtual rating, you will need to notify your Early Childhood Council and Clayton Early Learning of your decision and we will close your documentation portal.

Question: Will I be rated using only the documentation and any surveys that have been completed?

Answer: Programs will not be rated without an ERS component.

Question: Will the documentation requirements be different?

Answer: L3-5 indicator documentation will remain almost the same, with a few adjustments for virtual collection and we will be providing modified Evidence Guides. L3-L5 indicators that require evidence “within the last 12 months”, will change to “within the last 24 months” to allow providers to submit documentation pre-COVID. Observable indicators will be collected virtually since they cannot be collected in-person. This will be clearly defined in the modified Evidence Guides, which can be found on the Clayton Early Learning website: <https://www.claytonearlylearning.org/quality-assessment-services/our-projects/>

Question: Will virtual Pre-K CLASS® observations count towards my Learning Environment rating component and will virtual Toddler and Infant CLASS® count toward Optional Points?

Answer: Yes. Virtual Pre-K, Toddler, and Infant CLASS® observations will be accepted as long as they meet all the requirements: conducted by a current, certified observer, four cycles occurred, a minimum of 10 minute observation cycles, and start and end times for each cycle are included on the scoresheet.

Question: Can we still do resubmissions and/or appeals?

Answer: Yes. The resubmission and appeal process will remain the same.

Question: Will we still have the opportunity to re-rate after 6 months?

Answer: Yes. Programs will still have the opportunity to re-rate with the virtual rating after the 6 months have elapsed after the first rating was completed. However, programs that have not had a Level 3-5 Rating will be prioritized over re-rates, so there is no guarantee of how soon you could be re-rated.

- Resources for coaches wanting to conduct virtual CLASS® observations can be found here: <https://www.claytonearlylearning.org/quality-assessment-services/our-projects/inter-rater-reliability-team/>

Question: How will I know of any other changes or updates, or if I have questions and concerns?

Answer:

- The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and Clayton Early Learning will host several information sessions starting in September. There will be many targeted offerings for coaches and providers over the next few months. Register for a Virtual Rating Information Session here: <https://www.claytonearlylearning.org/training-professional-development/courses-workshops/training-calendar.html>
- Clayton Early Learning hosts Colorado Shines Level 3-5 Question and Answer sessions the third Friday of each month from 1:00-2:30 pm. These sessions are recorded and posted on the Clayton Early Learning website. For additional information on Q&A sessions visit: <https://www.claytonearlylearning.org/quality-assessment-services/our-projects/colorado-shines-ratings.html>
- Once you have been assigned a two-month rating period, your lead Clayton Early Learning Assessor will also be a resource to answer questions and address concerns during your orientation call and throughout your full rating period.