**Certification FAQ’s**

**What is a certification?**

Certification on an Environment Rating Scale (ERS) is a way to demonstrate a depth of knowledge on an ERS scale. Anyone is able to become certified. The actual certification is a paper certificate signed by an ERS team member declaring certification on that scale.

**What are the benefits to certification?**

Certification on an ERS scale demonstrates a level of understanding on the scale that cannot be achieved through a training alone. The live observation is an opportunity to ask questions and be mentored by a Clayton ERS team member who obtains reliability each year with the authors (ERSI) of the Environmental Rating Scales.

**What are the requirements?**

To receive an ECERS-R, ITERS-R, FCCERS-R, or SACERS-U certificate, one must attend a Clayton facilitated full day training based on the scale one wishes to become certified on. In addition, one must attend the Clayton facilitated Cultural Competency training. If you were unable to complete the most recent Cultural Competency training, and would like to sign up for the next one, please email me or ERSScheduling@claytonearlylearning.org for information regarding future training dates.

**How much does certification cost?**

Certification costs $280.00 for local counties. If you would like one of our team members to travel to your county (if it is not in the Denver Metro area), we will send you a cost estimate with travel costs included.

**Are there any alternatives to the live Clayton conducted trainings?**

For the Environment Rating Scales, you may purchase and complete an online training from ERSI, information and registration found here: <https://www.ersi.info/ersi/training.jsp>. Please provide Clayton with proof of training completion prior to becoming certified. For Cultural Competency, there is not alternative for a live Clayton conducted training.

**What does a certification day consist of?**

On the day of certification, you will meet with a member of the Clayton ERS team at a predetermined time, at a predetermined location. You and your team member will do a live, three-hour observation utilizing the ERS score sheet and scale. Following the observation, you and your team member will find a quiet place to score your observation (usually a restaurant or office). You will then compare scores to ensure a solid understanding of the ERS scale that was used. Plan for a full eight hour day for certification (although sometimes you may finish sooner). Please note, this process is intended to be a learning opportunity, thus, questions and discussions are encouraged throughout the observation and during the scoring portion afterwards.

**Are there any other steps?**

Following the scoring portion of the certification, a feedback report will be written and delivered to the program that was observed. Your ERS team member will send you a report template and a sample report to assist in this process, and walk you through writing of the report. The report will consist of strengths and areas of improvement noted during the observation. After you have completed the report, you will send it to your Clayton ERS team member for edits. Reports are due two weeks after the observation and will be returned to you anywhere from 2 weeks- 1 month after the observation. If a report is needed sooner, please make that request with your ERS team member. Once a report is edited and finalized, you will receive your official ERS Certificate; certifying you for one year.

**Where do these observations occur?**

If there is a site you know would like to receive the feedback, we would be happy to oblige observing at a site of your choosing. If you would like assistance finding a site, we are happy to help locate a local site as well. We strongly encourage you to observe at a program you are not a direct supervisor or staff member in, to ensure you are able to take a non-biased approach to observing.

**Will I receive credit with PDIS?**

In addition to the training hours clocked during the trainings themselves, these certifications will each earn 2 points in the PDIS. Users can earn points for each ERS certification they have.

These points are mapped under Professional Development. 15 points under Professional Development come from standard clock hour trainings. The remaining 15 points must be earned through certifications or trainings that must meet a higher criteria, such as ERS certification.

**What are my next steps?**

To schedule a certification, please email ERSScheduling@claytonearlylearning.org. Please include your name, which scales you wish to certify on, your timeframe for your certification, and where you are planning on certifying (or if you need help finding a location). We typically are booked out two months in advance, so please try and plan ahead to schedule as soon as you can. If you are about to expire and are ready to re-certify, please also contact us at the email above two months prior to your expiration month.