### A New Future for **Early Learning Program Accreditation**

NAEYC will launch a re-envisioned accreditation system in early 2025: Designed to be simplified and more accessible, equitable and responsive to the needs of early learning programs. We've heard over the last four years: our technology made the current system almost impossible, and you appreciated the accreditation content, but it was hard to understand and inaccessible and burdensome for many. We set out to re-envision our quality assessment system so that it is:

Streamlined





**Innovative** 



Aligned



**Accessible** 



### A Tiered Quality Assessment System

We have created a plan to improve the system so that it is more equitable, more accessible and provides programs with the transparency and feedback that you need to do your best work. We have revised the content so that it better reflects the uniqueness of early childhood programs across a variety of settings and helps you to showcase your strengths.

So, what does this new system look like? The new NAEYC Quality Assessment System includes three options for programs: Recognition, Accreditation and Accreditation+.





annual reporting

required



### **Step by Step Process of New Tiered System**

# Recognition Feedback &





#### **Assessment Content**

Existing accreditation standards and assessment items have been thoroughly reviewed with the intent to reduce complexity, improve accessibility, and increase NAEYC's ability to provide meaningful and actionable feedback to programs.

Recognition content will be focused on identifying the key policy components and baseline practices upon which high quality early learning experiences and environments can be built.

Accreditation content will be streamlined to include fewer, but still meaningful and rigorous assessment items. Like Recognition, a review of evidence will be the basis upon which an accreditation decision is initially granted. Accredited programs will remain accountable to maintaining high quality practices overtime through ongoing quality assurance measures, including unannounced site visits.

Accreditation+ content is the same as the Accreditation tier, but there are higher requirements for ongoing engagement with quality assurance.

### Frequently Asked Questions

# My program is currently accredited, will we renew under the current system or the new system?

Programs with Valid Until Date = Thru February 1, 2026 (4th Annual Report submitted Feb. 1 2025 or earlier) will renew under CURRENT System & Standards. Programs with Valid Until Date = March 1, 2026 or later (4th Annual Report submitted Mar. 1 2025 or later) will renew under NEW System and Standards.

## My program is not accredited yet, how will we transition into the new system?

Programs at Candidate status at transition will receive a site visit and assessed under CURRENT system and standards. Programs at Registered, Enrolled, Applicant status at transition will need to submit for "Recognition" to proceed.

# My program is currently accredited, what tier will we be in the new system?

Accredited programs in good standing will transition to the Accreditation+ tier. Programs can choose a different tier at the next renewal.

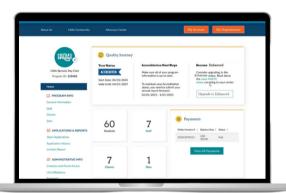
Visit our website for additional FAQs

#### New System Launches March 1, 2025

> For more details on how the new system will impact your program, visit our website.

#### **New User Friendly Portal**

Get ready for a NEW user-friendly portal that will be your one-stop-shop for all your NAEYC needs!



### Proposed 2025 Quality Assessment System Fees

			Amount by Enrollment						
		0-60	61-120	121-240	241-360	361-480	481-600	601+	
Recognition									
	Due at the time of initial application and annually starting 1 year after Recognition status is awarded. There is no fee to reapply, but programs are required to pay a regular annual fee before a new term can begin.	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	
Recognition Fee	Total fees for Recognition - first term and each subsequent term	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	
Accreditation									
Annual Accreditation	Due at the time of initial application and annually starting 1 year after accreditation status is awarded. There is no fee to reapply, but programs are required to pay a regular annual fee before a new term can begin.	\$650	\$750	\$900	\$1,025	\$1,200	\$1,375	\$1,550	
Fee	Total Fees for Accreditation - first term and each subsequent term	\$650	\$750	\$900	\$1,025	\$1,200	\$1,375	\$1,550	
Accreditation+									
4	Due annually starting at the next annual report date and each year after accreditation+ status is awarded. There is no fee to reapply, but programs are required to pay a regular annual fee before a new term can begin.	\$850	\$950	\$1,100	\$1,225	\$1,400	\$1,575	\$1,750	
Annual Accreditation+ Fee	Total Fees for Accreditation - first term and each subsequent term	\$850	\$950	\$1,100	\$1,225	\$1,400	\$1,575	\$1,750	
	Due at the time an upgrade to Accreditation+ is requested OR after a renewal application for Accreditation+ is approved.	\$1,750	\$2,000	\$2,300	\$2,600	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$4,000	
Accreditation+ Fee	Total Fees for Accreditation+ - first term and at renewal term	\$2,600	\$2,950	\$3,400	\$3,825	\$4,400	\$5,075	\$5,750	
Other Fees									
Late Fee	Paid any time an annual fee is late.	\$175	\$175	\$175	\$175	\$175	\$175	\$175	
Verification Visit Fee	Due when NAEYC orders a verification visit to be completed.	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$1,750	
Overseas Visit Surcharge	Due any time a Site Visit fee is due or a Verification Visit Fee is due AND the program is located outside of the US.	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	
Extension Fee	To extend accreditation term, programs must pay the extension fee PLUS the prorated amount of the annual fee for the duration of the extension. For example, a 6 month extension would cost the extension fee plus 6/12 (50%) of an annual fee.	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	