

Maryland EXCELS recognizes child care and Public Prekindergarten programs that provide services *above and beyond* those outlined in the standards. Programs that attain these additional achievements will be acknowledged on the Maryland EXCELS website.

## Accredited Program

Programs that have demonstrated quality standards and achieved accreditation by an agency recognized by the [Maryland State Department of Education](#) are eligible for the **Accredited Program Achievement**.



## Asthma & Allergy Friendly

The [Asthma, Allergy and Anaphylaxis Prevention and Management Training](#), sponsored by MSDE, helps participants acquire relevant knowledge and skills to ensure an Asthma and Allergy safe childcare environment and identify and manage Asthma and Allergy emergencies.



Programs earn the **Asthma and Allergy Friendly Achievement** upon successful completion of the training.

## Cultural and Linguistic Competency

Culture influences all aspects of a child's development and frames his or her experiences of early learning. When an early childhood or school-age program accepts *"the legitimacy of children's home language, respects the home culture, and promotes and encourages the active involvement and support of all families including extended and nontraditional family units,"* it is exhibiting cultural and linguistic competence. (NAEYC, 1995)



Programs earn this achievement by completing the **Cultural and Linguistic Competency Application** and the **Pathways to Cultural Competency Checklist**. Email [MarylandExcels.msde@maryland.gov](mailto:MarylandExcels.msde@maryland.gov) for more information.

## Eco-Friendly Program

Early education and school-age programs become greater community partners when children and staff protect the environment with their practices.



Programs achieve the **Eco-Friendly Program Achievement** by participating in at least one of these initiatives:

- [Children's Environmental Health Network: Eco-Healthy Child Care®](#)
- [Maryland Green Schools](#)
- [National Arbor Foundation: Nature Explore Program](#)
- [National Wildlife Federation: Eco-School USA Program](#)

## Health and Wellness

The early years set the stage for healthy life-long habits. Committing to serving healthy foods and promoting physical activity have positive impacts on child development.



Programs earn the **Health and Wellness Achievement** by successfully completing the [Let's Move! Child Care: Healthy Kids, Healthy Future](#) program.

## Quality Business Practices

Successful programs have sound business practices and strong organizational structure in addition to providing quality child care and early education. Following the completion of **Strengthening Business Practices** training, programs will use the **Maryland EXCELS Quality Business Practices Additional Achievement Application** to assess their practices and plan improvements. Email [MarylandExcels.msde@maryland.gov](mailto:MarylandExcels.msde@maryland.gov) for more information.

