

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.

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 obtaining a certificate of completion from at least one of these initiatives:

- [Children's Environmental Health Network: Eco-Healthy Child Care](#)[®]
- [National Arbor Foundation: Nature Explore Program](#)
- [National Wildlife Federation: Eco-School USA Program](#)
- [Maryland Green Schools](#) *Additional requirements for Center-based and School-Age Only programs housed in a Maryland Green School is a signed letter from a school administrator or Green Leader certifying that their program upholds the Maryland Green Schools standards within their program.*

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 maryland.excels@maryland.gov for more information.

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 maryland.excels@maryland.gov for more information.