

# Introduction to Maryland EXCELS Additional Achievements

## Video Transcript

[Music]

**A teacher reading a story to preschool children.**

Narrator: Welcome to this introduction to Maryland EXCELS Additional Achievements.

**A young girl thinking.**

Narrator: What are Maryland EXCELS Additional Achievements? Maryland EXCELS Additional Achievement badges showcase your dedication to continuous improvement and excellence in early childhood education.

**A teacher speaking with a family in an early childhood classroom.**

Narrator: Additional Achievements demonstrate to families your commitment to going above and beyond the Maryland EXCELS Standards, providing the best possible care for their children.

**The nine Additional Achievement badges.**

Narrator: Maryland EXCELS Additional Achievements focus on specific areas of high-quality child care. Maryland EXCELS participants can earn the following nine achievements:

**The Accredited Programs badge.**

Narrator: Accredited Programs. This achievement recognizes programs that have obtained accreditation from an agency recognized by the Maryland State Department of Education, demonstrating their commitment to meeting rigorous quality standards in early childhood education.

**The Asthma and Allergy Friendly badge.**

Narrator: Asthma and Allergy Friendly. Programs that earn this achievement have implemented policies and practices to create safe and supportive environments for children with asthma and allergies, ensuring their health and well-being while in your care.

**The Cultural and Linguistic Competency badge.**

Narrator: Cultural and Linguistic Competency. This achievement focuses on promoting cultural diversity and inclusivity within programs, including practices that support the cultural and linguistic needs of children and families from diverse backgrounds.

### **The Eco-Friendly Program badge.**

Narrator: Eco-Friendly Program. Eco-Friendly Programs prioritize environmental sustainability by implementing practices that reduce waste and conserve resources while also teaching children how to protect the environment.

### **The Family Engagement badge.**

Narrator: Family Engagement. By recognizing the importance of family involvement in children's education, the Family Engagement achievement encourages programs to establish strong partnerships with families, fostering collaboration and communication to support children's learning and development.

### **The Health and Wellness badge.**

Narrator: Health and Wellness. This achievement emphasizes promoting health and wellness practices within programs, including nutrition, physical activity, and overall well-being for children.

### **The Judy Center badge.**

Narrator: Judy Center. The Judy Center achievement demonstrates that your program helps prepare children for success in school and life. Judy Centers promote school readiness for children ages birth through five, while supporting all of the adults in a child's early years by utilizing a multigenerational approach.

### **The Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood badge.**

Narrator: Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood. Programs that earn this achievement provide quality child care services for military families, helping to offset the cost while providing care close to home.

### **The Quality Business Practices badge.**

Narrator: Quality Business Practices. This achievement focuses on the administrative and operational aspects of early childhood programs to ensure sound business practices and effective and efficient operations.

### **An early childhood classroom.**

Narrator: What are the benefits of earning Maryland EXCELS Additional Achievements? Additional Achievements enhance the quality of your program. By meeting the requirements for each achievement, you're ensuring that your program is providing high-quality child care.

### **The Find a Program Directory.**

Narrator: Families can easily find your program by searching for specific Additional Achievements in the Maryland EXCELS Find a Program Directory. Additional Achievements are displayed on your online profile, which means that families who are looking for specific expertise

can find your program using this tool.

**A preschool newsletter with an article titled, “We’ve Earned our Additional Achievement Badge.”**

Narrator: Maryland EXCELS Additional Achievements also provide recognition for your hard work and dedication. Additional Achievement badges can be downloaded from the Maryland EXCELS system and displayed on your correspondence with families, your website, or even on the walls of your home, center or school.

**The Maryland EXCELS online system displaying a program’s profile.**

Narrator: How do you upload Additional Achievements into the Maryland EXCELS system? It's simple! Just log into your Maryland EXCELS profile, navigate to the "Achievements" section under the program menu, and select the Additional Achievements you've earned. Follow the prompts to provide required documentation. Your Program Coordinator will review the documentation, and if approved, your achievement will be recognized in your online profile.

**A teacher who is building blocks with preschool children.**

Narrator: Maryland EXCELS Additional Achievements play a vital role in enhancing the quality of your child care program. By earning these achievements, you can create enriching learning environments that set children up for life-long success.

**A teacher speaking with preschool children. The Maryland EXCELS logo. The Maryland State Department of Education logo.**

For more information, please contact [info@marylandexcels.org](mailto:info@marylandexcels.org).