

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

NAFCC QUALITY STANDARD UPDATES (2024)

The National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) regularly reviews its Quality Standards for Accreditation, ensuring they reflect the latest best practices in early childhood education.

The revision of the NAFCC Accreditation Standards involves a rigorous process involving expert consultation, broad stakeholder feedback and careful consideration of best practices. Researchers at Western Oregon University and health and safety experts at Eco-Healthy Child Care reviewed the 2017 standards, recommending updates based on the latest research and best practices as well as providing citations to support the standards. The NAFCC Accreditation Council drafted the revised standards, which underwent additional review by the Quality Standards Review Team and was then opened for public comment. Feedback from these reviews was incorporated into the final draft, which was approved by the NAFCC Board of Directors.

The 2024 updates introduce key changes aimed at enhancing clarity, inclusivity, and professionalism within the field.

KEY CHANGES:

- **Streamlined Language and Organization:** Redundancies have been removed, and phrasing simplified for improved readability and ease of evaluation. The inventory of materials is now located in an appendix. Standards are separated and renumbered so that each component can be evaluated independently for a more focused assessment. (See updated numbering chart the **Revised Standards Numbers** section).
- **Elevating Educators:** The term "educator" replaces "provider," emphasizing the vital role of early childhood professionals in supporting children's development and learning.
- **Inclusive Language:** The shift from "parents" to "families" better reflects the diversity of family structures, and gender neutral language had been employed throughout the standards.
- **New and Significantly Revised Standards:**
 - **Strategic Planning:** Educators must now prepare a strategic plan for successful business operations (5.11).
 - **Program Evaluation:** Annual program evaluations with input from families and staff are required to measure progress towards goals (5.12).
 - **Assistant and Substitute Training:** Onboarding and training requirements are established for assistants and substitutes (5.39).
 - **Illegal Drugs:** The policy on illegal drugs reflects NAFCC's strong stance on illegal drugs in the FCC home. It now states that there must be no illegal drugs on the premises at any time, regardless of whether children are present (4.120).

NAFCC is also introducing **new rates which will take effect on August 1, 2024**. See details on the back.



2024 NAFCC ACCREDITATION FEE SCHEDULE

Accreditation application fees will be increased starting August 2024 for both members and non-members.

ACCREDITATION ITEM	MEMBER FEE	NON-MEMBER FEE
Self-Study Enrollment Kit	\$385	\$550
Accreditation Application	\$615 Co-provider Fee - \$150	\$850 \$200
18-Month Update	\$200	\$240

ACCREDITATION APPLICATION BUNDLE PACKAGES

Bundle includes:

- Self-Study enrollment
- Accreditation Application – Observation
- 18-month update fee

MEMBER FEE	NON-MEMBER FEE
\$1085.00 plus *\$45.00 annual membership fee	\$1600.00

- Extension Request (6 months) - \$150.00
- Observation Reschedule - \$100.00
- Additional Mailed Accreditation Award Certificates - \$35.00