

TEN NIEER QUALITY STANDARDS*

Early learning standards	National Education Goals Panel content areas covered by state learning standards for preschool-age children must be comprehensive
Teacher degree	Lead teacher must have a BA, at minimum
Teacher specialized training	Lead teacher must have specialized training in a pre-K area
Assistant teacher degree	Assistant teacher must have a CDA or equivalent, at minimum
Teacher in-service	Teacher must receive at least 15 hours/year of in-service professional development and training
Maximum class size (3-year-olds; 4-year-olds)	Maximum number of children per classroom must be 20 or lower
Staff-child ratio (3-year-olds; 4-year-olds)	Lowest acceptable ratio of staff to children in classroom (e.g., maximum number of students per teacher) must be 1:10 or better)
Screening/referral and support services	Screenings and referrals for vision, hearing, and health must be required; at least one additional support service must be provided to families
Meals	At least one meal must be required daily
Monitoring	Site visits must be used to demonstrate ongoing adherence to state program standards

*from *The State of Preschool 2008, State Preschool Yearbook*; Roadmap to the State Profile Pages; p.27; National Institute for Early Educational Research (NIEER); www.NIEER.org