



Technical Assistance: First Things First

If any classroom in a center scores below 3.0 on the *Environment Rating Scale*, a Technical Assistance Plan must be developed to address immediate needs relating to health and safety. On the scales, a score of 3.0 indicates an overall environment quality score of *minimal*.

In order to meet Tier 1 requirements, to ensure that the overall quality rating of a center is accurate, every classroom score must be at least 3.0. Therefore, a quality rating will not be issued to a facility if any classroom fails to meet minimal standards. To ensure that basic health and safety needs are being met, the IdahoSTARS Assessment Specialist will work directly with a facility until all classrooms meet minimal standards – only then will the *QRIS Improvement Plan* and *Funding Request* be considered.

Q: What happens if a classroom scores below 3.0 on the *Environment Rating Scale* assessment?

A: All *Environment Rating Scale* reports are reviewed by the IdahoSTARS Assessment Specialist, and any score of 3.0 will be flagged for Technical Assistance. The Assessment Specialist will contact the facility director to plan how to proceed. The Assessment Specialist will consult with the director and classroom teacher to manage the areas that need improvement. She is also available for site visits, report reviews, and to answer questions about the scales. The Assessment Specialist will work closely with a mentor/coach that is working with the classroom teacher and/or director.

Q: Is funding available through Technical Assistance?

A: Yes! The Assessment Specialist will help develop an improvement plan for the designated classroom(s). She will work with the director and classroom teacher to identify needs, set goals and request funding, if necessary. Items needing improvement can quickly move to strengths with small changes in practice and may not require funding.

Q: When will the *QRIS Improvement Plan* and *Funding Request* be considered?

A: When the Technical Assistance Plan has been implemented, the classroom will be reassessed, using the regular assessment process (choosing a two-week window). When the classroom scores 3.0 or above, the facility *QRIS Improvement Plan* and *Funding Request* can be submitted.