



WCAA Updates

September 2010

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STARS is a program of the Wyoming Children's Action Alliance. Other programs include Kids Count and Voices for America's Children.

New Provider Tool Now Available

WCAA is continually looking for ways to better serve Wyoming licensed childcare professionals. Recently we created a "New Provider Toolkit" that includes an overview of the training requirements during each biennium. Additionally, facility directors were sent information on how to access all of their employees training summaries. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 1.800.400.3999. Copies of the toolkit are available by email. We are here to help!



New Policies at STARS— Award of Credit Hours

The STARS Board of Review is in the process of the reviewing a number of policies which influence how STARS operates. In March, the board reviewed how frequently providers can obtain credit for attending the same class or using the same item from the clearinghouse. Below is the STARS policy on how often one provider can have credit for the same class or item.



Frequency of credit in STARS is provided as follows:

- Each practitioner will receive credit once in each biennium for re-occurring required trainings (for example, core trainings, CPR/First Aid).
- Each practitioner may receive credit for attending a statewide or national conference as it occurs.
- Each practitioner may receive credit for staff orientation training each time she/he begins work with a new employer.
- Each practitioner may receive credit for the following types of classes once in their career:
 - Any standard pre-approved class, sequenced training, workshop or institute
 - Use of any one clearinghouse item
 - Completion of a webinar, internet-based training or correspondence course
 - Completion of a college course with a grade of C or better
 - CEUs focused on early care and education provided by another training or professional organization



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Clearinghouse Rules to Change January 1, 2011

The clearinghouse is undergoing a material review and STARS is looking to acquire new materials to replace the old ones. The policy for credit generated through books, videos, DVD's and web-based trainings was reviewed by the STARS Board of Review at its September meeting.

The thumbs up was given to proposed changes which support the opportunity for self-directed study through the clearinghouse items.

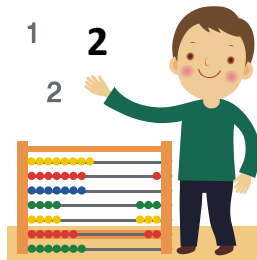
The changes include the evaluation form and how books will earn credit. Beginning on January 1, **credit will no longer be given for single chapters of a book.** Providers will need to read the entire book to gain credit. In addition, clearinghouse users will need to provide a 75 word explanation of how they will use what was learned from the video or book in their child care setting.

As of January 1, books will then be on the same level as DVDs, videos and webinars in that the entire item must be viewed or read to gain credit. For electronic materials credit will be based on the running time of the presentation and rounded **down** to the next half an hour. One exception is to this rule are videos with running times of more than 15 minutes but less than 30 minutes that are reviewed and approved for one-half hour of STARS credit.

Providers are reminded that DFS Rules limit the use of the clearinghouse for no more than 50% of their required training each biennium when live interactive training is offered within 50 miles of their location.

Training Calendar

If you haven't perused the Training Calendar lately, now might be a good time to check it out! All of the classes sponsored by The Department of Workforce Services and delivered by Align are up on the Training Calendar for the 2010-2011 schedules. Putting together a training plan may help combat last minute worries! (<http://www.wykids.org/training-calendar/>)



Stand and Celebrate

Congratulations to the top three winners in the 2010 Stand and Celebrate Photo Contest. The winning photographs can be found on the Stand and Celebrate page on our website (http://www.wykids.org/stand_and_celebrate/)

The Magic Number is 2!

Here at STARS we are striving for consistency. Remember a biennium is two years. Classes need to renew every two years. Instructors need to renew/update every two years. Rule of thumb: once every two years.

