

Pathways to Positive Connections Frequently Asked Questions

Pathways to Positive Connections, a 2-year project funded by the William Penn Foundation, is a 3-Tiered approach of Social Emotional Learning Services that are rooted in the Pyramid Model Practices. These supports are open to any ECE provider operating in Philadelphia.

What is the Pyramid Model?

The pyramid model is an evidence-based framework used to support social emotional learning.

What support does Tier 1 offer?

Tier 1 participation will offer every other month introductory Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Professional Development. Trainings will be held virtually and will offer PQAS professional development credit. Tier 1 SEL trainings are open to all provider types and all STAR levels. You can attend one session or all of them.

How can I register for Tier 1 trainings?

Registration for Tier 1 will be available ongoing at the PHMC website, <https://ecebizopssupports.phmc.org/our-programs/sel-supports>, and through First Up social media, follow FirstUpEarlyEd on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter.

What are Tier 2 supports and how often will the group meet?

Tier 2 will offer a virtual SEL Community of Practices (COPs) and is designed to allow for peer-to-peer discussions. It is opened to Tier 3 participants and some Tier 1 participants who are interested in moving to Tier 3. Discussions will cover SEL topics to support professional development. The group will meet at least four times a year.

Do I need to attend all four Community of Practice sessions?

No, you can attend just one or all four. Tier 3 participants will be encouraged to attend all or most of the COPs.

What supports are offered at Tier 3?

- **Option 1:** Pyramid Model Program-Single Classroom that will provide bimonthly coaching visits within one preschool classroom or if a family childcare provider, coaching will focus on working preschool learners in each location. Extensive professional development will be provided which will be take a deep dive into various SEL topics. All participants will receive Second Step Curriculum.
- **Option 2:** Pyramid Model Program-Wide (PBIS) Approach will provide bimonthly coaching visits and serve as external facilitator of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework. Extensive professional development will be offered.

Additionally, Option 2 will support PBIS core leadership team and Benchmarks of Quality (BoQ) to work for PBIS fidelity.

****Within both options, pre- and post-assessment data will be completed***

For Tier 3, can you apply for both or should you choose one approach?

If a single program is applying, one approach must be chosen. If a legal entity has more than one location, application can be made for each interested location and one option should be chosen for each location. However, one location could choose Option 1 while another location could choose Option 2.

What are the pros and cons of Tier 3 Option 1 vs Option 2?

Choosing Option 1, single classroom, may be the best choice for your program if you feel that the entire center is not quite ready to receive coaching and attend professional development trainings. Choosing Option 2 would be the better choice for your program if SEL practices have already been implemented in some part of your program and you have great staff buy-in of supporting SEL practices.

If our program participates, can it help us with Keystone Stars?

Participating at any Tier can enhance meeting your Keystone Stars performance standards.

How many visits per month could a location anticipate for Tier 3?

Coaching visits will occur bimonthly.

Are the coaching sessions in the classroom or would teachers need to be pulled out?

Using the Coaching with Powerful interaction framework, coaching consists of direct classroom observation and afterwards an opportunity to meet with the teacher to debrief and to establish goals and review classroom strategies.

Is the program available to family providers?

Yes, Pathways to Positive Connections at all Tiers is available to Family Child Care providers in the Philadelphia area.

How many providers do you hope to be able to support in Tier 2 and 3?

For Tier 2 supports, our goal is to have at least 20 providers at each community of practice session. At Tier 3, we are recruiting 20 Philadelphia based programs for the single classroom Pyramid Model and 15 Philadelphia based programs for program wide Pyramid Model (PBIS).

Is there a timeframe set up yet for the application due date?

Yes, applications are due Friday, October 7. We will begin notifying participants the week of October 17, 2022.

Is the application required for just Tier 3?

Yes, an application is only required for Tier 3 participation.

Does program wide include infants and toddlers or just PreK?

Yes, program wide PBIS framework supports social-emotional competence in infants and young children within your program. The Pyramid Model encompasses your entire building.