Better Beginnings Certification Process for Out-of-School Time programs

Overview of the Certification Process

The Better Beginnings certification process consists of eight steps. Certification is valid for three years. You should start step about one year before you plan to submit your Better Beginnings application.

1. About 12 months before you plan to apply, begin the **Better Beginnings Application Checklist** and email the **Intent to Apply form** to BetterBeginings@AState.edu.
2. Prepare for YPQI assessments (or SACERS and PAS if not participating in YPQI)
3. Gather documentation.
4. Complete YPQI assessments (or SACERS and PAS if not participating in YPQI)
5. Review the **Better Beginnings Application Checklist.**
6. Submit your Better Beginnings Application for the level for which you have qualified in the ELS portal.
7. Receive notification of the Better Beginnings level assigned.
8. Maintenance, growth through technical assistance and training, and Recertification.

About 12 months before you plan to apply, submit the **Intent to Apply** form to BetterBeginings@AState.edu to get started.

Providers must complete all requirements including YPQI assessments (or SACERS and PAS assessments if not participating in YPQI) before submitting their Better Beginnings application in the ELS portal. All documentation must be uploaded before the application is submitted or the application will not be accepted.

Certification will be awarded based on the highest level of requirements met. Your certification is valid for three years. It is recommended that programs request Technical assistance (TA) for classroom support in the two years after certification.

To access the ELS portal go here: https://ardhslicensing.my.site.com/elicensing/s/?language=en_US

If you need help accessing or completing the application in the ELS portal, or other technical support related to the online application contact your Better Beginning Specialist at DCCECE, 501-320-6161, BetterBeginnings@dhs.arkansas.gov

For more information on requirements and the application process go to: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11cDWrae3O56Bt_GXwYuvZEppgXgBb_Qu?usp=sharing