# School Age Environmental Rating Scale (SACERS-U)

## What is the SACERS-U?

The SACERS-U is an observation tool that evaluates the quality of the overall learning environment. This scale looks at the environment by collecting data through classroom observations and the materials that are accessible throughout the observation.

The assessment is a six-subscale, 35-item rating scale. Each item is ranked from one to seven. A ranking of one is described as inadequate quality, while a ranking of seven describes excellent quality, with scores of minimal or good quality being three and five, respectively. The subscales are as follows:

- Space and Furnishings
- Personal Care Routines
- Language and Literacy
- Learning Activities
- Interaction
- Program Structure

## Which program(s) could use the SACERS-U?

SACERS-U is appropriately used for school-age programs supporting school-age children.

## SACERS-U Self-Reflection:

With support from the QCSD coaches, program leadership and staff will use the Environment Rating Scale (ERS) as a self-reflection tool by helping teachers assess the quality of their classroom environment and daily practices through a structured lens. This practice encourages staff to identify strengths, recognize areas for improvement, and set intentional goals to enhance children's learning experiences.

## How does the SACERS-U support continuous quality improvement (CQI)?

An ERS assessment supports Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) by providing a clear, objective snapshot of a program's current practices and environment. The detailed feedback helps programs identify specific strengths and areas needing enhancement, which can then be used to set targeted CQI goals, track progress over time, and make informed decisions that directly improve child outcomes and overall program quality.

*These practices are from the SACERS-U Edition which contains the most current research-based information.