

## **Environment Rating Scales Certification Information and Checklist**

### **Types of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) Certification provided by First 5 California (F5CA) Master Anchors (MA) to California Quality Rating and Improvement System (CA-QRIS) Local Regional Anchors**

*(This document was developed as part of the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant and adopted by the CA-QRIS Consortium)*

Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (TQRIS) Guidelines require **Local/Regional Anchors** to be certified by an approved Environment Rating Scales (ERS) Master Anchor. Only an author/contractor from the Environment Rating Scales Institute (ERSI) or a First 5 California (F5CA) Master Anchor (MA) are **approved ERS Master Anchors** for California's RTT-ELC TQRIS. Local/Regional Anchors may certify reliability of local assessors.

The chart below summarizes the types of support F5CA MAs can provide consortia to support Local/Regional Anchor ERS certification, recertification, and inter-rater reliability requirements of the CA-QRIS (formerly known as RTT-ELC TQRIS) Assessor Management System. To best serve consortia:

- The F5CA Master Anchors will work with each consortium to identify certification/reliability needs and schedule a mutually convenient time for the F5CA MA to work with the Local Anchor.
- F5CA MAs will work with up to three participants using the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS-R) or the Infant-Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS-R). They will work with up to two participants using the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS-R) due to limited space in family child care homes.
- Please note, it is often necessary to work with Local Anchors from adjacent consortia at the same time to maximize F5CA MAs time, which may require travel for a Local Assessor.
- The participant may have pre-visit requirements.
- The F5CA MA reserves the right to cancel an agreed-upon certification if the participant is not prepared.

- Participants will receive a certificate from the F5CA MA with information about reliability following certification, recertification, or inter-rater reliability visits.

	<b>Initial Certification of Local Anchor</b>	<b>Annual Recertification of Local Anchor</b>	<b>Inter-Rater Reliability with Local Anchor</b>
<b>Description/ Requirement</b>	Local/Regional Anchors must achieve at least 90 percent reliability, calculated by averaging inter-rater reliability scores over 3 consecutive days during a certification visit with an approved ERS MA.	Local/Regional Anchors must recertify reliability every 12 months by maintaining an average of at least 90 percent reliability over 3 consecutive days with an approved ERS MA.	Between annual recertification, at least every six months, Local/Regional Anchors must participate in an inter-rater reliability check with an approved ERS MA or another Local/ Regional Anchor certified by an approved ERS MA.
<b>Target Participant</b>	a. Level 2 assessor (>85%) to become certified as Local/Regional Anchor. OR b. Individual without certification on ERS, to become Anchor certified (in counties with no assessor).	a. Reliable RTT-ELC Local/Regional Anchor (certified by an approved ERS MA) who needs recertification. OR b. Level 1 ERS Assessor certified at or above 90 percent reliability by an entity other than ERSI or F5CA Anchor to establish.  c. RTT- ELC TQRIS-approved Local/Regional Anchor status	Local/Regional Anchors certified by approved ERS MA at six month interval between recertification.

<b>Number of Days with F5CA Master Anchor</b>	<u>5 days</u> May include some pre-work by webinar, by telephone, or individually by participants.	<u>4 days</u> May include some pre-work by webinar, by telephone, or individually by participants.  Optional 5 <sup>th</sup> day, as needed.	<u>2 days</u> Optional 3 <sup>rd</sup> day, as needed.
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	<b>Initial Certification of Local Anchor</b>	<b>Annual Recertification of Local Anchor</b>	<b>Inter-Rater Reliability with Local Anchor</b>
<b>Schedule</b>	Day 1: Discussion and item-by-item walk-through of the tool  Day 2: Practice observation and group scoring (does not contribute to reliability average)  Days 3, 4, and 5: Observations. After each observation, participants score privately, and then scoring is compared to determine Inter-Rater Reliability.	Day 1: Practice observation, plus a four to five hour discussion and item walk-through (does not contribute to reliability average)  Days 2, 3, and 4: Observation. After each observation, participants score privately, and then scoring is compared to determine Inter-Rater Reliability.  Day 5 may be scheduled if needed.	Day 1: Practice observation and discussion of scores and items as needed (does not contribute to reliability average)  Day 2: Observation, individual scoring, then comparison for Inter-Rater Reliability.  Day 3 may be scheduled, if needed.
<b>Certification Standard</b>	Those who reach 90 percent reliability with consensus scores on 3 consecutive observations will be certified as Local Anchor for one year (12 months from date of certification). Those who score between 85 and 89 percent will be certified as an assessor.	Those who reach 90 percent reliability with consensus scores on 3 consecutive observations will be certified as Local Anchor for one year (12 months from date of certification). Those who score between 85 and 89 percent will be certified as an assessor.	Anchors must maintain Inter-Rater Reliability of 90 percent to continue to act as Local Anchor.

	<b>Initial Certification of Local Anchor</b>	<b>Annual Recertification of Local Anchor</b>	<b>Inter-Rater Reliability with Local Anchor</b>
<b>Local Lead Agency Responsibilities</b>	<p>Coordinate scheduling between the F5CA MA and local participant(s).</p> <p>Ensure local participant(s) complete training checklist requirements.</p> <p>Arrange six classrooms appropriate to the tool for observation (five required, plus one back-up). Note: Scores should not be used for QRIS ratings, and sites should offer varied assessment experiences.</p>	<p>Coordinate scheduling between the F5CA MA and local participant(s).</p> <p>Arrange five classrooms appropriate to the tool for observation (four required, plus one back-up). Note: Scores should not be used for QRIS ratings, and sites should offer varied assessment experiences.</p>	<p>Coordinate scheduling between the F5CA MA and trainees.</p> <p>Arrange three classrooms appropriate to the tool for observation (two required, plus one back-up). Note: Scores should not be used for QRIS ratings, and sites should offer varied assessment experiences.</p>
<b>Participant Preparation</b>	Complete requirements in Certification Checklist.	Complete requirements in Recertification Checklist.	Visit the ERSI website <a href="http://www.ersi.com">www.ersi.com</a> to download the most recent Additional Notes for Clarification.

## Environment Rating Scales (ERS) Certification Checklist

To prepare for initial and/or annual certification, participants will complete the following activities and return this checklist to the First 5 California (F5CA) Master Anchor (MA). This checklist must be completed, signed, and returned before F5CA schedules travel. Please scan and e-mail or fax a signed copy to **Melinda Geiser, Kim Lister, or Dana McVey** at (916) 263-1360 no later than **two weeks before the planned visit**.

By signing below, I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to complete the following activities in preparation for my F5CA MA certification visit from (dates) \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ county:

Before the first day of the certification visit, I will:  
on (tool) \_\_\_\_\_ in

- Download the latest tool-specific **Additional Notes for Clarification** from <http://www.ersi.info> and paste them into my copy of the relevant scorebook.
- Read or re-read the relevant scorebook (tool), tab each subscale, highlight indicators with additional notes, and add notes for clarification, as needed.
- Tab each subscale and make sure I am familiar with the content in **All About ECERS** or **All About ITERS**, as relevant.
- Prepare score sheets and materials necessary for the completion of assessments.

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fax to (916) 236-1360, or scan and e-mail this page to [Training&CQI@ccfc.ca.gov](mailto:Training&CQI@ccfc.ca.gov).