This Glossary of Terms is a resource designed to support your understanding of QSLA's quality supports available to all QSLA participating sites, including Family Child Care Homes, Non-CSPP/Private Centers, and CSPP Sites.

Glossary of QSLA Quality Supports

Support type	Definition	Other terms used
Quality Improvement Supports (QIS)Helpdesk	The Quality Improvement Support (QIS) Help Desk provides accessible, personalized support to active QSLA participating sites not enrolled in coaching. The QIS Help Desk connects participants to high-quality technical assistance, professional development linkage, and early childhood resources that strengthen program quality and educator impact.	Technical assistance, TA
Assessment Technical Assistance	Assessment Technical Assistants (TAs) support providers as they prepare for the assessment and rating process.	Assessment TA
Quality Improvement Coaching	When QSLA participating sites opt into coaching, they partner with a program coach who will work directly with an early childhood education (ECE) educator(s). Together, they identify and work toward specific classroom quality improvement goal(s) with a focus on effective teacher-child interactions (CLASS). Coaching visits happen throughout the program year and are designed to support the progress and achievement of those goal(s).	Classroom Coaching
Professional Development Trainings	Ongoing learning opportunities designed to enhance the skills, knowledge, and competencies of early learning professionals in specific content areas or aspects of an early learning program or environment. It can include formal training sessions, workshops, and participation in Communities of Practice (CoPs).	Trainings, Workshops, QSLA Connect sessions, leadership supports, CoPs
Financial Incentives	Money distributed annually to QSLA participating sites to be used for enhancing the quality of their program services.	
Resources	Materials, tools, and linkages designed to facilitate the connection to early childhood education topics. For example: • Early Childhood Websites • Handouts • Videos • Tip sheets	
Menu of Services	The QSLA Menu of Services identifies all QSLA Quality Improvement supports available to QSLA participating sites. **Please note that the Menu of services is subject to change based on funding and resource availability.*	
Common Data File	The Common Data File is a required component of QSLA's annual data collection, mandated by our funders—CDE, CDSS, and First 5. Participation is essential to ensure that our data is accurate, comprehensive, and aligned with state requirements.	CDF
Coaching Service Request	Sites interested in partnering with a program coach to work on identifying and reaching a specific classroom quality improvement goal may opt into Quality Improvement Coaching by completing a Coaching Service Request via an online portal.	
Quality Improvement Plan	Quality Improvement Plans (QIPs) are developed during an educator's participation in coaching. These plans outline the educator's goals.	QIP
Assessment and Tier Rating	The assessment TA provides Technical Assistance in orienting providers through; the QSLA model, reviewing CA QRIS Rating Framework, gaining an understanding of the CLASS assessment tool and preparing providers on what to expect on the day of the CLASS observation. After completing the assessment process, providers receive a final tier rating ranging from (1-5) point scale.	
New CSPP Participant Onboarding (New Participant)	Assessment TAs orient new QSLA CSPP participating sites through the assessment process. Onboarding of new assessment providers aligns with the enrollment periods of Summer and Winter.	Newbie Onboarding
Instructional and Professional Materials	Resources that support and enhance professional development by reinforcing learning, improving instructional practices, and contributing to ongoing program improvement. These materials may be intended for use by educators or directly in the classroom and may include: • Books • Assessment tools • Manipulatives • Classroom resources • Business-related items • Curriculum Manuals	Kits, Training materials, Manuals, Books
QSLA Connect	A learning management system used to find professional development opportunities, QSLA Connect provides access to self-paced and live (in-person or virtual) professional development opportunities, alongside helpful resources for QSLA coaches and participants.	LMS, Absorb
Peer2Peer Connections	A facilitated professional development opportunity for participants who share a common interest to meet, share their knowledge, and experiences. The Peer 2 Peer framework focuses on Connections, Celebrations, Conversations and Building a Community.	Community of Practices
Community of Practice	A Community of Practice is a group of individuals who share a common role, interest, or area of expertise and come together regularly to share knowledge, collaborate on challenges, and improve their practice through ongoing dialogue and reflection.	
Professional Stipend	Financial support for Early Childhood Educators to enhance their skills and knowledge through professional development opportunities such as: • Courses and workshops • Conferences • Tuition fees • Books and other learning materials	