

## Maryland EXCELS and MSDE Accreditation

### Overview

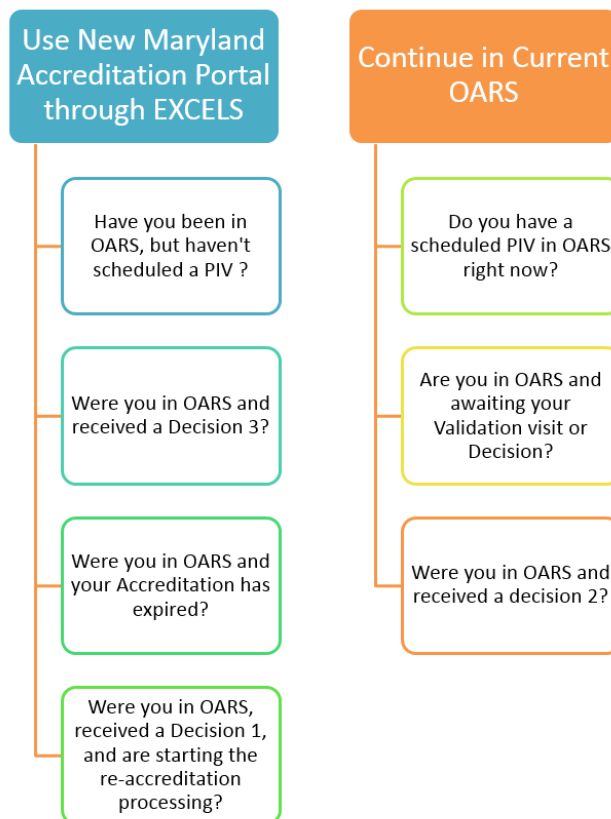
Maryland (MSDE) Accreditation is excited to launch its new Online Maryland Accreditation Portal, part of the broader Maryland EXCELS system. This web tool will allow programs that participate in both Maryland Accreditation and Maryland EXCELS to share data, files, and users, in order to make it easier to receive reciprocal credit when appropriate.

Programs who are interested in *starting* or *restarting* the accreditation process are asked to transition into the [Online Maryland Accreditation Portal](#). There, you will register for an account that will allow you to participate in your choice of Maryland Accreditation, Maryland EXCELS, or both.

If you have already created an account in the Online Accreditation Registration System (OARS), you may be eligible to continue in this system depending upon the current status of the program's accreditation process. Below is a chart to assist you in determining "What System Do I Use?"

The [Online Maryland Accreditation Process Guide](#) is also available to assist programs with navigating the online accreditation process.

### What Maryland Accreditation System Do I Use?



## Frequently Asked Questions

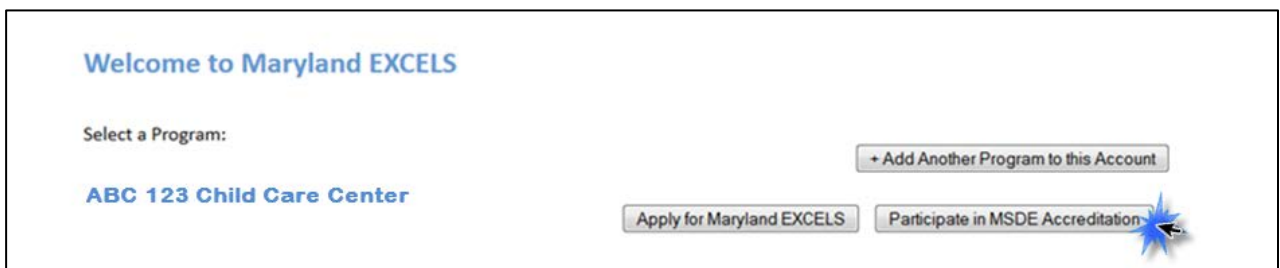
**1. I am a current Maryland EXCELS Participant. Am I required to participate in MSDE Accreditation?**

No. The Online Maryland Accreditation Portal allows for programs to participate in either Maryland EXCELS or MSDE Accreditation independently, without obligation to be in both initiatives, in order to still gain the full benefits of this online system.

Child Care Centers, Public Prekindergarten/Kindergarten Programs, and School-Age Programs are eligible to pursue MSDE Accreditation but are not required to do so. In order to achieve a Maryland EXCELS level 5 rating, a program must be accredited by an [organization recognized by MSDE](#).

**2. I want to pursue MSDE Accreditation. Am I required to participate in Maryland EXCELS?**

No. When you register your program at [www.MarylandEXCELS.org](http://www.MarylandEXCELS.org), you will select “Participate in MSDE Accreditation.” At any time, you may also select “Apply for Maryland EXCELS” if you wish to participate in both initiatives.



**3. I am already registered for Maryland EXCELS and I need help registering for Maryland Accreditation. What do I do?**

Maryland EXCELS and Maryland Accreditation Participants have access to 24/7 Technology Support by phone 443-872-9250 and by [email](#).

**4. I am a Family Child Care Provider and I do not see the option to apply for Maryland Accreditation when I log into my Maryland EXCELS Account.**

The National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) sponsors the only nationally recognized accreditation system designed specifically for family child care providers. Visit [NAFCC](#) for more information on accreditation for family child care.

# MARYLAND EXCELS

## CHECK FOR QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS

While MSDE does not provide state accreditation for family child care, there is [Accreditation Support](#) funding available for family child care providers to help pay the cost of the accreditation application fee. The funding may be applied to the initial or renewal application fees.

### 5. What will happen if my program participates in both Maryland EXCELS and MSDE Accreditation? What will happen to the documents I upload into Maryland EXCELS?

The tool allows a program participating in both initiatives to share documents and files that have been uploaded as evidence in support of either MSDE Accreditation or Maryland EXCELS to be easily used as evidence toward the other initiative when appropriate.

The documents that you upload into Maryland EXCELS or into the Online Maryland Accreditation Portal will be accessible in both systems when selecting “Choose from previous uploads.”