**VOLUNTARY QUALITY STANDARDS OVERVIEW**

* **Environment**: Indoor and outdoor spaces meet the physical, social, and emotional needs of children.
* **Relationships**
	+ Staff relationships with children are positive, supportive, nurturing, and consistent.
	+ Staff ensure a positive social and emotional environment and appropriate child participation.
	+ Staff provide appropriate mentoring opportunities and/or role modeling to guide child behavior in positive ways.
	+ Staff use positive techniques to guide the behavior of children.
	+ Children interact with one another in positive ways.
* **Community Involvement**
	+ The program develops, implements, and encourages family engagement through supportive communication.
	+ The program works with community partners to create linkages and leverages resources and support for the children and families served.
* **Programming**
	+ Programs are intentional about supporting and accelerating student learning and demonstrate intentional planning.
	+ Activities and curriculum reflect the mission of the program and promote the development of all children in the program.
	+ Activities address the academic and non-academic needs of the children.
	+ The daily schedule is flexible and offers safety, support, independence, and stimulation to meet the needs of all the children.
	+ There are relevant materials and supplies to support program activities.
* **Health**
	+ The health, safety, and security of all children are protected.
	+ The program provides careful and consistent supervision of children to maintain physical, emotional, and social safety and security.
	+ The program creates and sustains an environment that encourages healthy choices and eating habits.
* **Administration**
	+ The administration has sound fiscal accounting policies and procedures in place that support the longevity and quality of the program.
	+ Administration recruits and hires qualified staff and provides professional development to retain and improve program quality.
	+ Records of children contain accurate information and are properly maintained to ensure the safety and confidentiality of children and families.