

Disagreeing with/Appealing a Portfolio or ERS Score

The Nevada Silver State Stars: Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development (OELD) require Quality Rating staff and Assessors to be fair, objective, and impartial in scoring the portfolio and conducting Environment Rating Scale (ERS) Assessments. The department works diligently to ensure that assessors undergo a rigorous and on-going reliability process on the instruments they use, including comprehensive report writing reliability, and that they apply the scoring requirements correctly and consistently from provider to provider.

An early childhood educator has the right to disagree with and seek further review of a portfolio or ERS score. While an early childhood educator may fundamentally disagree with a score, many times the disagreement is actually with the intent of an ERS or portfolio indicator and not with how the assessor or QRIS staff applied the scoring requirements or indicator. Early childhood educators can contact their QRIS Coach for further clarification of an indicator's intent.

Failure to submit documentation to the online portfolio is not grounds for an appeal of a portfolio score. Any changes in staff status or training achieved after the portfolio has been submitted will not be taken into account when scoring the portfolio. All ERS scores are determined during the assessment and are based on what was observed as well as the information gathered during the staff interview. Information added or shared at a later date cannot be used to change scores. If an early childhood educator can substantiate that a portfolio or ERS score was reached in error the early childhood educator should complete the following steps within 12 calendar days of receiving the Quality Rating communication email from the Office of Early Learning and Development.

Because of the assessors' strict reliability requirements, typically minor errors will not change overall scores. If the overall average ERS score would NOT change, even if an error was made, the appeal will be denied.

1. Complete the Appeal Submission Form (either the ERS Summary Report Appeal Form or the Nevada Silver State Stars QRIS Feedback form), which serves as a statement of disagreement/appeal.
2. All sections of the form/s must be completed to include:
 - a. Facility/Visit Information
 - b. Contact Information
 - c. Exact ERS Indicator or Portfolio Indicator being refuted along with the ERS or Portfolio assessor's scoring comments or justification rationale.
 - d. Detailed information regarding the ERS Item or Portfolio Standard being refuted. Please include information on how you feel the item or standard was met, or specific reason(s) for your disagreement with the score.
 - e. Indicate the resources used in your research to determine that your refutation is valid.
 - f. Please complete one refutation form per ERS Item or Portfolio Standard being disputed. Multiple forms can be submitted together if disputing more than one item or standard.

- g. Please include any additional documentation required to support the validity of the appeal with submission.
3. E-mail the completed statement/s of refutation to: gris@doe.nv.gov within 12 calendar days of receiving the Quality Rating communication email.
4. The early childhood educator's completed statement of disagreement regarding ERS scoring will be sent to the lead assessor for the region where the provider is located, or the portfolio reviewer in the case of a portfolio appeal. Providers will receive a confirmation e-mail from the QRIS administrator to notify receipt of the appeal.
5. The regional coaching supervisor, ERS anchor, or portfolio reviewer may contact the provider for additional information, if necessary, before providing the information to the appeals subcommittee of the QRIS advisory committee. The review will be conducted within 15 calendar days of receipt of the original appeal.
6. Once the information is compiled from the statement of disagreement, review of observation or portfolio assessor notes, and discussions with the early childhood educator and assessor as required, the QRIS advisory committee appeal subcommittee will make the final decision regarding whether or not the score will change or will stand as issued. This decision will be finalized within 45 calendar days of receipt of the original appeal.
7. The early childhood educator will then be emailed the determination of whether the score will be changed or will stand as issued.

Sometimes, scores are changed following review, and sometimes they are not. Early childhood educators can ask questions and state disagreement with scores and may do so without fear of retaliation or negative consequence.

If an appeal is not received within 12 calendar days of the rating notification, the appeal is subject to not being accepted.