RFEF Key Design Standards for Quality Environments

These are the key design elements for quality early learning environments that are requirements of the Rising Futures Expansion Fund (RFEF) program. During the RFEF Planning Phase, we work with you to understand your ability to meet these goals.

This is not an exhaustive list. The [FFQ Child Care Center Design Guide](#), [FFQ Child Care Center Design Guide for All](#), and program consultants are all great resources for many detailed design considerations when planning for quality early learning environments.

KEY DESIGN STANDARDS

For Classrooms:

*Full height walls between classrooms

> Can include open viewing window for additional light and supervision.
> **Reason:** Language learning and noise *[Design Guide for All p. 20](#)*

*Sinks in classrooms

> At least one sink per classroom. Ideal is 1 adult height and 2 child height sinks per classroom.
> **Reason:** Health and supervision/transitions *[Design Guide p. 34](#)*

*Bathrooms in classrooms

> Bathrooms in every classroom for preschool and toddlers.
> **Reason:** Health and supervision/transitions *[Design Guide p. 34 and p. 44](#)*

*Ideal classroom sizes

> Sized to offer maximum ratios/group sizes (with square footage buffer for quality and licensing). Ideal room sizes include two teachers in each classroom.
> **Reason:** Financial sustainability *[Design Guide p. 16](#)*

For Program Spaces:

*Ample gross motor space

> Ideally both outdoor and indoor gross motor space, adequate for at least one classroom.

*Staff space and dedicated staff bathroom

> Adequate, comfortable and quiet.

SPRINKLER STANDARD

RFEF requires childcare providers must adhere to the Georgia State Minimum Fire Safety Standards, which heavily utilize the International Building Code (IBC) and NFPA 101 Life Safety Code.

In addition to meeting all [GA DECAL childcare licensing](#), [Georgia State Minimum Fire Safety Standards](#), and other regulatory requirements, all projects must pass review by a third-party construction inspector.