

# SACERS-U and SAPQA

## Understanding the Differences



**The Big Picture:** Both measures define and assess quality in programs serving school-age children; they just look at it from different perspectives. The School-Age Environment Rating Scale Updated Edition (SACERS-U) considers multiple aspects of the environment, including space and furnishings, health and safety, activities, interactions, program structure, and daily routines. The School-Age Program Quality Assessment with Supplemental Scales (SAPQA) prioritizes staff-led practices, focusing on interactions that promote engagement, positive relationships, participation, and leadership opportunities.

### Key Similarities

Clean and safe environments

Physical set-up suits the children's ages and abilities

Materials organized to promote independence

Choices that allow for individual expression

Every child feels welcome, represented, and respected

### SACERS-U

### Conceptual Differences

### SAPQA

Focuses on the physical environment including staff interactions with children.

**Environment vs. Interactions**

Evaluates how staff interact with children and how those interactions support learning, engagement, and development.

What is offered to the children?

How do adults and children work together?

Considers the accessibility and variety of specific activities and interactions.

**Varied activities vs. Observed offerings**

Looks at the quality of children's experiences regardless of the specific materials being used.

What activities and interactions do the children experience?

What children are doing and learning?

Uses detailed indicators that define specific environmental features, materials, and program practices.

**Specific requirements vs. Broad practices**

Includes broad indicators that focus on engagement, belonging, leadership, reflection, and skill-building.

More specific requirements.

Focused on how quality is demonstrated through practice.

#### Helpful tip:

Download the SAPQA with Supplemental Scales to learn more about the measure: [click here](#).

#### Want more information?



Explore NCRLAP's webpage dedicated to the SAPQA

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