

Statwide QRIS Profile: District of Columbia

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
INTRODUCTION	
<p>The District of Columbia's Going for the Gold quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) is a voluntary system administered by the Early Care and Education Administration in the Office of the State Superintendent of Education. The QRIS has three levels—Bronze, Silver, and Gold—built upon licensing requirements. Providers at the Gold level must be accredited. The District is in the process of revising its QRIS.</p>	
CONTACTS	
QRIS Name	Going for the Gold
Organization	Early Care and Education Administration, Office of the State Superintendent of Education
Start Date	2000
Web Site	http://dhs.dc.gov/dhs/lib/dhs/pdfs/ecea/tiered-reimbursement_advance.pdf
RATING LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS	
Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bronze ■ Silver ■ Gold
Rating Assignment Method	<p>Building blocks:</p> <p>Going for the Gold is a voluntary system. Providers at the Bronze level must have a current license and meet some additional standards. For each remaining level, providers must meet the requirements of that level and those of previous levels. Providers at the Gold level are accredited.</p>

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General Requirements to Achieve Highest Level	Providers must meet the requirements for the Bronze and Silver levels to achieve the Gold level.
Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments	ERS scores are used to determine rating levels. A minimum score is required to achieve each level of Going for the Gold.
QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS	
QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Site	<p>There are separate sets of standards for child care centers and family child care (FCC) homes within one standards document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Accreditation ■ Compliance with licensing regulations ■ Qualifications and training (for staff, directors, and providers) ■ Staff compensation (for centers only) ■ Parent involvement and consumer satisfaction ■ Learning environment ■ Home environment/home evaluation (for FCC only) <p>http://dhs.dc.gov/dhs/lib/dhs/pdfs/ecea/tiered-reimbursement_advance.pdf</p>
Provider Types and Groups of Children Addressed in QRIS Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child care centers ■ Family child care homes ■ Preschool-age children
Use of Accreditation	Accreditation is required to achieve the Gold level (i.e., the highest level).
Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Council on Accreditation ■ Council on Accreditation, After School Programs (formerly National AfterSchool Association) ■ National Association for the Education of Young Children, Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation ■ National Association for Family Child Care

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FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Financial Incentives	Tiered subsidy reimbursement
Additional Information	The District is in the process of revising its QRIS.