

## Statewide QRIS Profile: Illinois

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<p>The <b>Illinois Quality Counts: Quality Rating System (QRS)</b> was implemented in State Fiscal Year 2008. It helps Illinois child care programs provide quality care for children and their families. This voluntary system is available to license-exempt family child care providers, licensed family child care providers, and licensed centers. The QRS offers levels that providers can achieve, depending on the type of care they provide. The Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies administers the QRS, and local resource and referral agencies offer technical assistance, training, and support to all types of providers.</p>	
<b>CONTACTS</b>	
<b>QRIS Name</b>	Quality Counts
<b>Organization</b>	Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services
<b>Start Date</b>	2007
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.inccrra.org/early-childhood-professionals/quality-rating-system">http://www.inccrra.org/early-childhood-professionals/quality-rating-system</a>
<b>RATING LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS</b>	
<b>Levels</b>	<p>For licensed facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Star Level 1</li> <li>■ Star Level 2</li> <li>■ Star Level 3</li> <li>■ Star Level 4</li> </ul> <p>For license-exempt homes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Training Tier 1</li> <li>■ Training Tier 2</li> <li>■ Training Tier 3</li> </ul>

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<b>Rating Assignment Method</b>	<p><b>Building blocks:</b></p> <p>Providers must be currently licensed to apply at any Star Level, unless they are legally exempt. Licensed providers apply for a particular Star Level when they have met requirements. License-exempt providers must meet the requirements for the previous tier before moving on to the next.</p>
<b>General Requirements to Achieve Highest Level</b>	<p>To achieve four stars, providers must be nationally accredited and have an environment rating scale score of at least 5.0. In addition, at least 30 percent of staff must meet Great START education Level 6 or above and have current certification in CPR/first aid.</p>
<b>Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments</b>	<p>Environment rating scale scores are required for the “Learning Environment” standards to achieve one, two, and four stars. For three stars, licensed facilities can be nationally accredited or have a specific rating score.</p> <p>Program Administration Scale scores for centers and Business Administration Scale scores for family child care homes are required to achieve the “Program Administration” standards to achieve four stars.</p>
<b>QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS</b>	
<b>QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Site</b>	<p>The categories of standards for licensed facilities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Learning Environment</li> <li>■ Program Administration</li> <li>■ Staff/provider Qualifications and Training</li> </ul> <p>License-exempt family child care home provider standards consist of three training tiers.</p> <p><i>Licensed Child Care Center &amp; School-age Program Star Level Chart</i>  <a href="http://www.inccrra.org/component/docman/doc_download/175-grs-star-level-chart-centers">http://www.inccrra.org/component/docman/doc_download/175-grs-star-level-chart-centers</a></p> <p><i>Licensed Family/Group Home Star Level Chart</i>  <a href="http://www.inccrra.org/component/docman/doc_download/177-grs-star-level-chart-family">http://www.inccrra.org/component/docman/doc_download/177-grs-star-level-chart-family</a></p> <p><i>QRS Training Tiers—License-exempt Family Child Care Homes</i>  <a href="http://www.inccrra.org/component/docman/doc_download/176-grs-star-level-chart-exempt">http://www.inccrra.org/component/docman/doc_download/176-grs-star-level-chart-exempt</a></p>

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<b>Provider Types and Groups of Children Addressed in QRIS Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Child care centers</li> <li>■ Family child care homes</li> <li>■ License-exempt family child care homes</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Accreditation</b>	Accreditation is required to achieve four stars (i.e., the highest level).
<b>Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Council on Accreditation, After School Programs (formerly National AfterSchool Association)</li> <li>■ National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs</li> <li>■ National Association for the Education of Young Children, Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation</li> <li>■ National Association for Family Child Care</li> <li>■ National Early Childhood Program Accreditation</li> </ul>
<b>FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Financial Incentives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tiered subsidy reimbursement</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Information</b>	Illinois is currently the only State with QRIS standards for license-exempt family child care providers. The standards consist of three training tiers. Providers are eligible for increases in subsidy reimbursement for completing the training tiers.