

## Statewide QRIS Profile: Louisiana

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<p><b>Quality Start</b> is Louisiana’s voluntary quality rating and improvement system (QRIS). The Department of Social Services formed a new division, the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, in its Office of Family Support to lead the effort to design and implement a QRIS in Louisiana. In 2007, the Louisiana Legislature passed a package of tax credits, known as School Readiness Tax Credits, which support the Quality Start QRIS. The tax credits include benefits for families with children enrolled in rated centers, child care providers that serve children receiving child care subsidies, child care teachers and directors who work in rated centers, and businesses that support quality child care.</p>	
<b>CONTACTS</b>	
<b>QRIS Name</b>	Quality Start
<b>Organization</b>	Quality Improvement Unit, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Louisiana Department of Social Services
<b>Start Date</b>	2008
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.qrslouisiana.org/">http://www.qrslouisiana.org/</a>

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<b>RATING LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS</b>	
<b>Levels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Foundation 1 star</li> <li>■ Foundation 2 stars</li> <li>■ 3 stars</li> <li>■ 4 stars</li> <li>■ 5 stars</li> </ul> <p>Points are earned for 3–5 star levels.</p>
<b>Rating Assignment Method</b>	<p><b>Combination:</b></p> <p>Quality Start is a voluntary system only available for center-based child care providers at this time. To earn 1 star, providers must be licensed. Additional requirements must be met in the four categories of standards to earn 2 stars. For 3–5 stars, providers must earn points in two component areas (i.e., staff qualifications and program). One more quality point can be earned by meeting additional administrative practice and family/community involvement standards.</p>
<b>General Requirements to Achieve Highest Level</b>	<p>For 3–5 stars, providers must earn points in two component areas (i.e., staff qualifications and program). One more quality point can be earned by meeting additional administrative practice and family/community involvement standards. A total of 10–11 points must be earned to achieve 5 stars.</p>
<b>QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS</b>	
<b>QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Site</b>	<p>There are standards for child care centers only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Administration practices</li> <li>■ Family and community involvement</li> <li>■ Program</li> <li>■ Staff qualifications</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.grslouisiana.org/assets/files/Quality_Start_Model.pdf">http://www.grslouisiana.org/assets/files/Quality_Start_Model.pdf</a></p>

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<b>Provider Types and Groups of Children Addressed in QRIS Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Child care centers</li> <li>■ Infants and toddlers</li> <li>■ Preschool-age children</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments</b>	ERS are required. A total of 1–5 points are earned based on average and minimum scores on the social-emotional subscale of the ERS and the overall assessment.
<b>Use of Accreditation</b>	Accreditation is not included in the QRIS.
<b>FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Financial Incentives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tiered subsidy reimbursement</li> <li>■ In 2007, the Louisiana Legislature passed a package of tax credits, known as School Readiness Tax Credits, which support the Quality Start QRIS. The tax credits include benefits for families that have children enrolled in rated centers, child care providers that serve children receiving child care subsidies, child care teachers and directors who work in rated centers, and businesses that support quality child care.</li> </ul>