

Statewide QRIS Profile: Maryland

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
INTRODUCTION	
<p>The Maryland Child Care Tiered Reimbursement program recognizes child care programs that go beyond the requirements of State licensing and registration regulations. There are four levels of the quality rating and improvement system (QRIS), each one recognizing a programs' achievement of a certain level of program accreditation, staff credentialing, continued training, enhanced learning environment, staff compensation, parent involvement, and program evaluation. Maryland is in the process of revising its QRIS.</p>	
CONTACTS	
QRIS Name	Maryland Child Care Tiered Reimbursement Program
Organization	Division of Early Childhood Development, Maryland State Department of Education
Start Date	2001
Web Site	http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/credentials/tiered
RATING LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS	
Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Level 1 ■ Level 2 ■ Level 3 ■ Level 4
Rating Assignment Method	<p>Building blocks:</p> <p>The Maryland Child Care Tiered Reimbursement Program is a voluntary system. Level 1 requires meeting licensing standards. For each remaining level, providers must meet the requirements of that level and those of previous levels. Accreditation self-study starts at Level 2 and is completed at Level 4. Level 4 requires accreditation.</p>

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General Requirements to Achieve Highest Level	To achieve Level 4, providers must meet the standards for Levels 1–3 plus additional Level 4 standards.
Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments	ERS scores are used to determine rating levels. At Level 2, providers are required to complete an ERS self-assessment. Levels 3 and 4 are determined by achievement of average scores per group on the ERS.
QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS	
QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Site	<p>There is one set of standards for all facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Accreditation status ■ Staff credentialing ■ Learning environment ■ Parent involvement ■ Program evaluation ■ Staff compensation (for centers only) ■ Continued training <p>http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/095902FD-4755-451F-8B29-EF8A48B16B2D/14972/TieredReimbursementLevelsChart.doc</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 Level 4 (i.e., the highest level).

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Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Council on Accreditation, After School Programs (formerly National AfterSchool Association) ■ Maryland State Department of Education Accreditation ■ National Association for the Education of Young Children, Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation ■ National Association for Family Child Care ■ National Early Childhood Program Accreditation ■ Other child care accreditation that meets the criteria set and approved by the Maryland Child Care Administration
FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Financial Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Tiered subsidy reimbursement ■ Achievement bonuses are awarded to individual providers that participate in the Maryland Child Care Credential Program for at least 1 year, continue training and professional activities, and maintain 1 year of employment in a child care facility. Attainment of these credentials is included in the standards for the Maryland Child Care Tiered Reimbursement program.
Additional Information	<p>Maryland is in the process of revising its QRIS.</p>