



QRIS State Profile: Delaware

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
INTRODUCTION	
<p>The overarching goal of <i>Delaware's Early Childhood Strategic Plan: Sustaining Early Success</i> (2013) and <i>Delaware's Early Childhood Plan for Early Success</i> (2006) is that all children enter life and school ready to succeed. Access to high quality early learning programs for all of Delaware's children, with an initial focus on children from low-income families, is an essential component of the plan. Delaware Stars for Early Success quality rating and improvement system establishes quality standards for programs and provides technical assistance and financial incentives and support to programs involved in Stars as they engage in quality improvement efforts. Delaware Stars is a voluntary system for programs to work on improving quality by moving up the Star Levels. Delaware Stars for Early Success is a five level system, with "5" being the highest rating.</p>	
CONTACTS	
QRIS Name	Delaware Stars for Early Success
Organization	State of Delaware program implemented through a contract to the Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood, University of Delaware, with additional partners to assist with various facets of the Stars initiative
Web Site	Web Site for early childhood professionals: http://www.delawarestars.udel.edu/ Web Site for families: www.greatstartsdelaware.com

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RATING LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS	
Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Starting with Stars (Star Level 1) ■ Star Level 2 ■ Star Level 3 ■ Star Level 4 ■ Star Level 5
Rating Assignment Method	<p>Combination: For licensed child care programs, they are accepted into Stars (Starting with Stars) if they are in good standing with the Office of Child Care Licensing, the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Child Care Subsidy (Purchase of Care). Programs have 1 year to complete the standards for Star Level 2. For levels 3–5, the level is determined by the total number of points earned (points may be earned in any one of 4 standards area) and required minimal scoring on the Environment Rating Scale.</p>
Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments	<p>Although ratings are based on a point system, minimum ERS scores are required for Star Levels 3, 4, and 5.</p>
Program Assessments Included in QRIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R) ■ Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ITERS-R) ■ Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale-Revised (FCCERS-R) ■ School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS)

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QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS	
<p>QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Sites</p>	<p>There are separate sets of standards for early care and education programs, FCC programs, large FCC programs, and school-age only programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Qualifications and professional development ■ Learning environment and curriculum ■ Family and community partnerships ■ Management and administration <p><i>Delaware Stars for Early Success Program Guide (2012)</i> http://www.delawarestars.udel.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/DEStarsProgramGuideSeptember2012R.pdf</p> <p><i>Early Care and Education Standards</i> http://www.dieec.udel.edu/sites/dieec.udel.edu/files/pdfs/stars/ECE_Standards2-12REV7-18-12.pdf</p> <p><i>Family Child Care Standards</i> http://www.dieec.udel.edu/sites/dieec.udel.edu/files/pdfs/stars/FCC_Standards2-12REV7-18-12.pdf</p> <p><i>Large Family Child Care Standards</i> http://www.dieec.udel.edu/sites/dieec.udel.edu/files/pdfs/stars/LFCC_Standards2-12REV7-18-12.pdf</p> <p><i>School-age Standards</i> http://www.dieec.udel.edu/sites/dieec.udel.edu/files/pdfs/stars/SA%20Standard%20Feb%202012%20REV7-18-12.pdf</p>
<p>Programs Eligible to Participate in QRIS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Early care and education (child care) centers ■ Licensed family child care homes ■ Head Start/Early Head Start and state funded Head Start (Early Childhood Assistance Program) ■ Public/Charter schools ■ School-age centers

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Use of Accreditation	NAEYC accredited programs, once accepted into Delaware Stars, must provide a copy of their accreditation and complete the Delaware Stars Orientation specific to NAEYC programs. Once complete, NAEYC programs are designated Star Level 5 and may keep their Star Level by maintaining their NAEYC accreditation and submitting copies of their annual NAEYC reports to Delaware Stars.
Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National Association for the Education of Young Children, Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation
FINANCIAL INCENTIVES	
Financial Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Tiered subsidy reimbursement ■ Quality Improvement Grant – supports implementation of quality improvement plan ■ T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Delaware ■ Infrastructure Grants- technology and capital ■ Compensation, Retention and Education Awards (CORE) ■ Early Learning Leadership Initiative- Aim4Excellence Credential ■ Child developmental screening (Ages & Stages ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE) and Formative Child Assessment (TSI GOLD)- free training, materials, and online access ■ Support for curriculum is being introduced in 2014 and will involve free training and materials