



QRIS State Profile: Iowa

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
INTRODUCTION	
<p>The Iowa Quality Rating System is a voluntary child care rating system for family child care homes, licensed child care centers and preschools, and child care programs that are operated by school districts. The QRIS was developed to raise the quality of child care in Iowa, increase the number of children in high-quality child care settings, and educate parents about quality in child care.</p>	
CONTACTS	
QRIS Name	Iowa Quality Rating System
Organization	Iowa Department of Human Services
Web Site	http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/iqrs/
RATING LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS	
Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Level 1 ■ Level 2 ■ Level 3 ■ Level 4 ■ Level 5
Rating Assignment Method	<p>Combination:</p> <p>The Iowa Child Care Quality Rating System is a voluntary system. To meet the standards for Level 1, providers must be licensed. For Level 2, all Level 1 and 2 criteria must be met. For Levels 3–5, all Level 1 and 2 criteria must be met, and providers must earn a minimum of one point in each of the four (centers have five) categories of standards. For Levels 3–5, the level is determined by the total number of points earned. To achieve a Level 5, a minimum ERS score of 5.0 in each assessed classroom must be met.</p>

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<p>Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments</p>	<p>Points are earned to achieve Levels 3–5 if the director attends ERS training and then completes an ERS self-assessment, or develops a quality improvement plan after completing the training. Up to 3 points are also earned for average facility ERS scores.</p>
<p>Program Assessments Included in QRIS</p>	<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)
<p>QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS</p>	
<p>QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Site</p>	<p>There are separate sets of standards for child care centers and family child care (FCC) homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Professional development ■ Health and safety ■ Environment ■ Family and community partnerships ■ Leadership/Administration (for centers only) <p><i>Child Care Center Chart</i> http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/iqrs/docs/QRS%20NEW%20Center%20Chart%202-1-11.doc</p> <p><i>Child Development Home Chart</i> http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/iqrs/docs/QRS%20NEW%20Home%20Chart%202-1-11.doc</p>
<p>Programs Eligible to Participate in QRIS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child care centers ■ Child care homes ■ School-based, school-operated under Dept. of Education ■ Head Start programs ■ Pre-kindergarten programs (Dept. of Education Voluntary Preschool Programs for 4 year olds) ■ School-age programs

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
Use of Accreditation	Providers earn points to achieve levels 3–5. Fifteen points are awarded for accreditation in Child Development Homes. In Licensed Child Care Centers, Preschools, and School-Based Programs, 18 points are awarded for accreditation. If a center is not yet accredited, they can receive 5 points for having their accreditation self-assessment approved by NAEYC.
Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Council on Accreditation ■ Council on Accreditation, After School Programs (formerly the National AfterSchool Association) ■ National Association for the Education of Young Children, Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation ■ National Association for Family Child Care
FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Financial Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Achievement bonuses determined by the size of the program and quality level achieved. Bonuses are paid each time a rating is re-determined or renewed. If the program does not increase their rating at re-application, they receive 50% of the bonus.
Additional Information	Head Start providers that are in compliance with Head Start Program Performance Standards can earn 3 points in lieu of accreditation.