



## QRIS State Profile: Kentucky

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<p>The goal of Kentucky’s KIDS (Kentucky Invests in Developing Success) NOW is for all young children in Kentucky to be healthy and safe, possess the foundation that will enable school and personal success, and live in strong families that are supported and strengthened within their communities. To reach this goal, Kentucky implemented the <b>STARS for KIDS NOW</b> voluntary child care quality rating and improvement system. This system uses a scale of 1 through 4 STARS to identify levels of quality. All STAR levels surpass the minimum licensing requirements that all programs must meet. Programs are assessed in the following areas: staff-child ratios, group size, curriculum, parent involvement, training/education of staff, regulatory compliance, and personnel practices.</p>	
<b>CONTACTS</b>	
<b>QRIS Name</b>	STARS for KIDS NOW Child Care Quality Rating System
<b>Organization</b>	Division of Child Care, Kentucky Department of Community Based Services
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dcc/stars/default.htm">http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dcc/stars/default.htm</a>
<b>RATING LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS</b>	
<b>Levels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Level 1</li> <li>■ Level 2</li> <li>■ Level 3</li> <li>■ Level 4</li> </ul>
<b>Rating Assignment Method</b>	<p><b>Building blocks:</b>            Provider license/certification must be in good standing at all levels. For each remaining level, providers must meet the requirements of that level and those of previous levels. Accreditation is one of the criteria for the level 4 curriculum standards.</p>

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<b>Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments</b>	ERS are required. For Level 1, programs must read information about ERS, and agree to complete an environment assessment within 12 months. For Levels 2, 3, and 4, programs must have an average minimum score to attain each level.
<b>Program Assessments Included in QRIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R)</li> <li>■ Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ITERS-R)</li> <li>■ Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale-Revised (FCCERS-R)</li> <li>■ School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS)</li> </ul>
<b>QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS</b>	
<b>QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Site</b>	<p>There are separate sets of standards for licensed child care centers, licensed FCC homes, and certified FCC homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ratios</li> <li>■ Curriculum</li> <li>■ Training</li> <li>■ Regulatory compliance</li> <li>■ Personnel (for centers only)</li> <li>■ Business practices (for FCC only)</li> </ul> <p><i>STARS for KIDS NOW Level Requirements for Type I Centers</i>  <a href="http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/ronlyres/5CBCD8A7-BE83-4444-9FB6-80CFB68558D7/0/11302009TypeIGrid.pdf">http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/ronlyres/5CBCD8A7-BE83-4444-9FB6-80CFB68558D7/0/11302009TypeIGrid.pdf</a></p> <p><i>STARS for KIDS NOW Level Requirements for Type II Licensed Family Child Care Homes</i>  <a href="http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/ronlyres/BA1999BF-FA4B-4DD9-B665-946CC24E3633/0/11302009TypeIIGrid.pdf">http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/ronlyres/BA1999BF-FA4B-4DD9-B665-946CC24E3633/0/11302009TypeIIGrid.pdf</a></p> <p><i>STARS for KIDS NOW Level Requirements for Certified Family Child Care Homes</i>  <a href="http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/ronlyres/EFC282BC-0264-4573-88D3-9692F588BE53/0/11302009CertifiedGrid.pdf">http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/ronlyres/EFC282BC-0264-4573-88D3-9692F588BE53/0/11302009CertifiedGrid.pdf</a></p>

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<b>Programs Eligible to Participate in QRIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Child care centers</li> <li>■ Group child care homes</li> <li>■ Family child care homes</li> <li>■ Early Head Start programs</li> <li>■ Head Start programs</li> <li>■ Pre-kindergarten programs</li> <li>■ School-age programs</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Accreditation</b>	Accreditation is one of the criteria for the Level 4 curriculum standards.
<b>Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Association for Christian Schools International</li> <li>■ Council on Accreditation</li> <li>■ Council on Accreditation, After School Programs (formerly the 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> <li>■ Southern Association of Colleges and Schools</li> </ul>
<b>FINANCIAL INCENTIVES</b>	
<b>Financial Incentives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tiered subsidy reimbursement</li> <li>■ Quality Incentive Award</li> <li>■ Initial Achievement Award</li> <li>■ Annual Achievement Award</li> <li>■ Annual Enhancement Award</li> <li>■ Commonwealth Child Care Credential/Child Development Associate Credential Non-College Scholarship Program</li> <li>■ Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority Scholarship Program</li> <li>■ Related Educational Reimbursement Expense Award</li> <li>■ Mini-Grants for national accreditation and CDA</li> <li>■ Milestone Achievement Award for completion of credential or degree</li> </ul>