



QRIS State Profile: Louisiana

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
INTRODUCTION	
<p>Quality Start is Louisiana’s voluntary quality rating and improvement system (QRIS). The Department of Children and Family Services contracts with the Louisiana Department of Education to implement the QRIS. 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>	
CONTACTS	
QRIS Name	Quality Start
Organization	Quality Improvement Unit, Early Childhood Division, LA Department of Education under contract with the Department of Children and Family Services
Web Site	http://www.qrslouisiana.org/
RATING LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS	
Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Foundation 1 star■ Foundation 2 stars■ 3 stars■ 4 stars■ 5 stars

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Rating Assignment Method	<p>Combination:</p> <p>To earn one star, providers must be licensed. Additional requirements must be met in the four categories of standards to earn two stars. For three–five stars, providers must earn points in two component areas (i.e., staff qualifications and program). An additional quality point can be earned by meeting additional administrative practice and family/community involvement standards.</p>
Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments	<p>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.</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)
QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS	
QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Site	<p>There are standards only for child care centers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Administration practices ■ Family and community involvement ■ Program ■ Staff qualifications <p><i>How to Get Your Stars</i> http://www.qrslouisiana.org/child-care-providers/how-to-get-your-stars</p> <p><i>Quality Start Model (March 2012)</i> http://www.qrslouisiana.org/assets/files/QS%20Model%20March%202012%2012%206.pdf</p>
Programs Eligible to Participate in QRIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child care centers ■ Early Head Start programs ■ Head Start programs ■ Centers licensed by the US Department of Defense

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
Use of Accreditation	Accreditation is not included in the QRIS.
Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS	
FINANCIAL INCENTIVES	
Financial Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Tiered subsidy reimbursement ■ School Readiness Tax Credits- 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 ■ Louisiana Pathways Scholarships