



## QRIS State Profile: Massachusetts

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<p>Massachusetts fully implemented its <b>Quality Rating and Improvement System</b> as of March 2011. The QRIS will enable the State's efforts to build an early childhood and afterschool system of care, as QRIS acts as a framework for organizing all of the functions of these systems. The process for the development of the Massachusetts' QRIS included each of the components going through three phases: Design, Public Input, and Implementation, which included a pilot period for each component. Massachusetts will use their Web-based data system to track the progress of providers as they attain levels within the QRIS.</p>	
<b>CONTACTS</b>	
<b>QRIS Name</b>	Massachusetts Quality Rating and Improvement System
<b>Organization</b>	Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.mass.gov/edu/birth-grade-12/early-education-and-care/qrisc/">http://www.mass.gov/edu/birth-grade-12/early-education-and-care/qrisc/</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></p> <p>The Massachusetts QRIS is a voluntary system. Level 1 is awarded to center-based and family child care providers that are licensed in good standing or meet licensing requirements if legally exempt. For each remaining level, providers must meet the requirements of that level and those of previous levels.</p>

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<p><b>Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments</b></p>	<p>ERS scores are self-assessed at Level 2. A Program Quality Specialist provides individualized technical assistance for Level 3 programs and providers. A reliable rater determines a program’s/provider’s scores after classroom observations for Level 3 and Level 4 programs. (NOTE: The EEC Board will be voting on a policy change in January, 2014 to move the reliable rater visits to Level 4 only.)</p> <p>In addition, Levels 2, 3, and 4 require assessments with the CLASS or Arnett Caregiver Interaction Scale to measure teacher-child relationships, and the PAS for administration. Assessment with the BAS is required for family child care providers</p>
<p><b>Program Assessments Included in QRIS</b></p>	<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> <li>■ Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)</li> <li>■ Arnett Caregiver Interaction Scale</li> <li>■ Program Administration Scale (PAS)</li> <li>■ Business Administration Scale (BAS)</li> <li>■ Assessment of Program Practices Tool Observation (APT-O) and Assessment of Program Practices Tool Questionnaire (APT-Q)</li> <li>■ Strengthening Families Protective Factors Self-Assessment</li> </ul>

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<b>QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS</b>	
<b>QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Site</b>	<p>To address the unique characteristics of quality found in different types of programs, the QRIS Standards have been customized for Center Based/School Based programs, Family Child Care providers, and After School/Out of School Time programs. The MA QRIS standards include five key indicators of quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Curriculum and learning</li> <li>■ Safe, healthy, indoor and outdoor Environments</li> <li>■ Workforce qualifications and professional development</li> <li>■ Family and community engagement</li> <li>■ Leadership, management, and administration</li> </ul> <p><i>Center and School Based QRIS Standards</i>  <a href="http://www.eec.state.ma.us/docs1/board_materials/20101214_qris_standards_ctr_based.pdf">http://www.eec.state.ma.us/docs1/board_materials/20101214_qris_standards_ctr_based.pdf</a></p> <p><i>Family Child Care QRIS Standards</i>  <a href="http://www.eec.state.ma.us/docs1/board_materials/20101214_qris_standards_fc_c.pdf">http://www.eec.state.ma.us/docs1/board_materials/20101214_qris_standards_fc_c.pdf</a></p> <p><i>After School and Out of School Time QRIS Standards</i>  <a href="http://www.eec.state.ma.us/docs1/board_materials/20101214_qris_standards_after_school.pdf">http://www.eec.state.ma.us/docs1/board_materials/20101214_qris_standards_after_school.pdf</a></p>
<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>■ License exempt providers</li> <li>■ Early Head Start programs</li> <li>■ Head Start programs</li> <li>■ Pre-kindergarten programs</li> <li>■ After School Time and Out of School Time programs</li> <li>■ Public School Pre-Kindergarten programs</li> <li>■ School-age programs</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Accreditation</b>	<p>Accreditation can be used as a method to document compliance with some of the standards. QRIS standards are aligned to many standards in the accreditation.</p>

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<b>Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Council on Accreditation, After School Programs (formerly the National AfterSchool Association)</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> </ul>
<b>FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Financial Incentives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tiered subsidy reimbursement</li> <li>■ Program planning or durable goods grants to programs to meet or maintain QRIS quality levels</li> <li>■ On-going, periodic grants or stipends tied to improving quality</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Information</b>	<p>MA QRIS allows verification of some QRIS standards that have been identified to be aligned with Head Start standards and NAEYC accreditation requirements.</p> <p>Most of the MA EEC funding opportunities require participation in QRIS, including; Universal Pre-Kindergarten grantees, Inclusive Preschool Learning Environment grantees, QRIS Improvement Grant recipients, as well as programs and providers receiving child care subsidies (vouchers and contracts).</p>