



QRIS State Profile: Maryland

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
INTRODUCTION	
<p>Maryland EXCELS is a voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) that recognizes early care and education programs that provide quality care, encourages providers to increase the level of quality provided in their programs, and provides families with information and choices about quality care. Implementation of this revised QRIS system began in July 2013. While participation is voluntary, for programs accepting Child Care Subsidy, participation will be required by 2015.</p>	
CONTACTS	
QRIS Name	Maryland EXCELS— <i>Excellence Counts in Early Learning and School-Age Care</i>
Organization	Division of Early Childhood Development, Maryland State Department of Education
Web Site	http://www.marylandexcels.org/
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>Building blocks:</p> <p>To achieve a check level 1 rating, a program must be fully licensed, open, and operating for at least 6 months and demonstrate compliance with specific licensing requirements. To achieve and publish a rating at any level, all criteria within that level must be achieved and verified.</p>

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Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments	The ERS or CLASS is required for Check Levels 3, 4, and 5. The self-assessment (Level 3) or outside assessment (Levels 4 and 5) is conducted and a program improvement plan is created for any subscale score below 4.0 (Level 3), or any subscale score below 4.5 (Level 4), or any subscale score below 5 (Level 5). The assessment process is designed to be one component of the program’s efforts towards continuous quality improvement
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) ■ Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)
QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS	
QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Site	<p>There are four separate standards: Child Care Centers (including Head Start and non-public nursery schools), Family Child Care (including Large Family Child Care Homes), School-Age Only (programs serving only school-age children), and Public Pre-Kindergarten. Note: Revised standards will be available in 2014, reflecting changes based upon feedback from the field test and stakeholder groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Licensing and Compliance ■ Staff Qualifications and Professional Development ■ Accreditation and Rating Scales ■ Developmentally Appropriate Learning and Practice ■ Administrative Policies and Practices <p><i>Child Care Center Standards</i> http://olms.cte.jhu.edu/olms2/data/ck/sites/217/files/MDExcelsCTRjan13rev.pdf</p> <p><i>Family Child Care Standards</i> http://olms.cte.jhu.edu/olms2/data/ck/sites/217/files/MDExcelsFCCjan13rev.pdf</p> <p><i>School-age Only Standards</i> http://olms.cte.jhu.edu/olms2/data/ck/sites/217/files/MDExcelsSACCjan13rev.pdf</p> <p><i>Public Pre-K Standards</i> http://olms.cte.jhu.edu/olms2/data/ck/sites/217/files/EXCELS%20Public%20Pre-K%20Standards_revisedNov_2012%20(2).doc</p>

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Programs Eligible to Participate in QRIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child Care Centers ■ Family Child Care Homes ■ School-Age Only programs ■ Public Pre-Kindergarten programs
Use of Accreditation	<p>To achieve level 5 (the highest level) the program must be accredited by an organization recognized by the Maryland State Department of Education.</p>
Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Association Montessori International/USA ■ American Montessori Society ■ Association of Independent Maryland Schools ■ Association of Waldorf Schools of North America ■ Council on Accreditation, After School Programs (formerly the National AfterSchool Association) ■ Maryland State Department of Education ■ Middle States Commission- Early Ages ■ Middle States Commission of Elementary Schools ■ National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs ■ National Association for the Education of Young Children, Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation ■ National Association for Family Child Care ■ National Early Childhood Program Accreditation
FINANCIAL INCENTIVES	
Financial Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Tiered subsidy reimbursement at check levels 3, 4 and 5 ■ Program Bonus at each level ■ Accreditation Support Fund ■ Curriculum Fund ■ Child Care Quality Incentive Grants ■ Credential Bonuses and Supports ■ Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund ■ Training Vouchers and Reimbursement <p>Information on incentives is available at http://marylandexcels.org/4547</p>