



## QRIS State Profile: Maine

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<p><b>Quality for ME</b> is a four-step quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) designed to increase awareness of the basic standards of early care and education, recognize and support providers that are providing care above and beyond those standards, and educate the community of the benefits of higher quality care. The QRIS was also created to identify those programs that may need additional resources or supports to increase their level of quality as it is measured by the Quality for ME system. All staff and providers working in facilities that participate in Quality for ME are required to register in the Maine Roads to Quality Registry.</p>	
<b>CONTACTS</b>	
<b>QRIS Name</b>	Quality for ME
<b>Organization</b>	Office of Child and Family Services, Maine Department of Health and Human Services
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/qualityforme.htm">http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/qualityforme.htm</a>
<b>RATING LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS</b>	
<b>Levels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Step 1</li> <li>■ Step 2</li> <li>■ Step 3</li> <li>■ Step 4</li> </ul>
<b>Rating Assignment Method</b>	<p><b>Building blocks:</b>            Step 1 requires meeting licensing standards. For each remaining step, providers must meet the requirements of that step and those of previous steps. Step 4 requires accreditation.</p>

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<b>Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments</b>	Maine does not require ERS assessments in its QRIS. However, centers and school-age child care may use an age-appropriate ERS to complete the self-assessment required in some of the levels.
<b>Program Assessments Included in QRIS</b>	Tools not specified.
<b>QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS</b>	
<b>QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Site</b>	<p>There are separate standards for child care centers, FCC homes, school-age care programs, and Head Start programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Compliance history/licensing status</li> <li>■ Learning environment/developmentally appropriate practice</li> <li>■ Program evaluation</li> <li>■ Staffing and professional development</li> <li>■ Administrative policies and procedures</li> <li>■ Parent/family involvement</li> <li>■ Family resources</li> <li>■ Authentic assessment</li> </ul> <p><i>Standards for Child Care Centers</i>  <a href="http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/quality_cbc.pdf">http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/quality_cbc.pdf</a></p> <p><i>Standards for Family Child Care Homes</i>  <a href="http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/quality_fcc.pdf">http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/quality_fcc.pdf</a></p> <p><i>Standards for School-Age Care</i>  <a href="http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/quality_sac.pdf">http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/quality_sac.pdf</a></p> <p><i>Standards for Head Start Programs</i>  <a href="http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/quality_headstart.pdf">http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/quality_headstart.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>■ 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 required to achieve step 4 (i.e., the highest level).
<b>Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ American Montessori Society</li> <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>■ Maine Roads Scholarship Program</li> <li>■ Child Care Investment Tax Credit (double child care tax credit)</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Information</b>	<p>Maine has specific standards for Head Start programs. For Head Start programs to meet the standards for Step 1, they must meet the Head Start Program Performance Standards, including meeting State licensing requirements if applicable.</p> <p>All staff and providers working in facilities that participate in Quality for ME are required to register in the Maine Roads to Quality Registry.</p>