



## QRIS State Profile: Minnesota

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<p><b>Parent Aware's</b> Star Ratings help parents find programs that prepare children for school and life. The voluntary one- to four-star ratings system measures best practices identified by research that help children succeed. Participating programs have: volunteered for extra, in-depth training; devoted themselves to strong, caring relationships with each child; adopted the latest approaches to keeping children's learning on track; committed to daily activities and routines that help children learn; and placed a focus on children's health and safety. Parent Aware Star Ratings are available to accredited child care, Head Start, and school-based pre-kindergarten programs. For non-accredited child care programs, Parent Aware is currently operating in some areas of the State; however, Parent Aware will be available statewide to these programs January 1, 2015.</p>	
<b>CONTACTS</b>	
<b>QRIS Name</b>	Parent Aware
<b>Organization</b>	Led by the Minnesota Department of Human Services in coordination with the Minnesota Office of Early Learning
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.parentawareratings.org/">http://www.parentawareratings.org/</a>
<b>RATING LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS</b>	
<b>Levels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ 1 Star</li><li>■ 2 Stars</li><li>■ 3 Stars</li><li>■ 4 Stars</li></ul>

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<p><b>Rating Assignment Method</b></p>	<p><b>Combination: Full Rating Process</b>                      Programs must be licensed to participate. Programs meeting all standards indicators for 1 and 2 Stars are eligible to apply for a higher star rating. A specific number of points are earned to reach the 3 and 4 Stars levels.</p> <p><b>Building Block: Accelerated Pathway to Rating</b>                      Head Start, accredited child care, school based pre-kindergarten, early childhood special education, and charter school programs are eligible for an Accelerated Pathway to Rating where two indicators are met to earn a 4-Star Rating</p>
<p><b>Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments</b></p>	<p>For non-accredited child care centers only: For the 3 star and 4 star levels, CLASS ratings in the Instructional Support categories are used to determine rating. In addition, one way to gain points towards a 3 star and 4 star level is through CLASS scores in all CLASS domains.</p>
<p><b>Program Assessments Included in QRIS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)</li> </ul>
<p><b>QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS</b></p>	
<p><b>QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Site</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Physical health and well-being</li> <li>■ Teaching and relationships</li> <li>■ Assessment of child progress</li> <li>■ Teacher training and education</li> </ul> <p>Indicators and Scoring – Full Rating for Center-based Programs  <a href="http://parentawareratings.org/files/Indicators%20Center.pdf">http://parentawareratings.org/files/Indicators%20Center.pdf</a></p> <p>Indicators and Scoring - Full Rating for Family Child Care Providers  <a href="http://parentawareratings.org/files/Indicators%20Family%20Child%20Care.pdf">http://parentawareratings.org/files/Indicators%20Family%20Child%20Care.pdf</a></p> <p>Indicators and Scoring – Accelerated Pathway to Rating for Head Start, accredited child care, school based pre-kindergarten, early childhood special education, and charter school programs  <a href="http://parentawareratings.org/files/Indicators%20Accelerated.pdf">http://parentawareratings.org/files/Indicators%20Accelerated.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>■ Early Childhood Special Education programs</li> <li>■ Charter Schools</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Accreditation</b>	<p>The “Accelerated Pathways to Rating” (APR) program allows accredited child care programs to follow a streamlined process to achieve a four star rating.</p>
<b>Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Accredited Professional Preschool Learning Environment</li> <li>■ American Montessori Society</li> <li>■ Association for Christian Schools International</li> <li>■ Association Montessori International/USA</li> <li>■ Council on Accreditation</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 Early Childhood Program Accreditation</li> <li>■ NHTSA Quality Initiative: Head Start Performance Excellence and Quality Recognition Program</li> </ul>
<b>FINANCIAL INCENTIVES</b>	
<b>Financial Incentives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tiered subsidy reimbursement (March 2014)</li> <li>■ Eligible to receive scholarships from families with Early Learning Scholarships</li> <li>■ Grants to programs to meet QRIS quality level</li> <li>■ T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Minnesota</li> </ul>