



QRIS State Profile: New Mexico

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
INTRODUCTION	
<p>New Mexico's AIM HIGH is a three level quality rating and improvement system to help parents identify quality child care programs. Each STAR Level requires a provider to meet higher quality standards in six areas: staff training and education, environment, daily learning activities, family involvement, assessment, and ratios and group size. The number of stars a provider earns is displayed on the facility license. All facilities that meet minimum licensing standards earn at least two star. A pilot of a revised QRIS—FOCUS—is currently underway. It is a three- level quality rating and improvement system in two major areas: 1) Foundations of Quality which includes ratios, health promotion, staff qualification and professional developments and 2) Quality Practices that Support Children's Growth, Development and Learning which includes the learning environment, assessment and curriculum, and reflective leadership. An evaluation of the pilot began in February 2013.</p>	
CONTACTS	
QRIS Name	AIM HIGH/ FOCUS (In evaluation pilot phase)
Organization	University of New Mexico, Division of Continuing Education
Web Site	AIM HIGH https://www.newmexicokids.org/content/caregivers_and_educators/aim_high/ FOCUS https://www.newmexicokids.org/content/caregivers_and_educators/focus/
RATING LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS	
Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3-star ■ 4-star ■ 5-star

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Rating Assignment Method	<p>Building blocks:</p> <p>All licensed providers in AIM HIGH and FOCUS Pilot Phase are required to comply with licensing regulations and earn a 2-star license. For the remaining voluntary levels, providers must meet requirements of previous levels. Accreditation or meeting FOCUS TQRIS Level 5 standards is required to obtain a 5-star license.</p>
Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments	<p>To achieve 3 stars and above in AIM HIGH, the provider must achieve an average core of 4.0 on an ERS. In FOCUS, the ERS will be used as a program self-assessment tool.</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) ■ Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale-Revised (FCCERS-R) ■ School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS) ■ Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) ■ Program Administration Scale (PAS) ■ Business Administration Scale (BAS)

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QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS	
<p>QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Site</p>	<p>In AIM HIGH, there is one set of standards for child care centers and FCC homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Staff qualifications, evaluation, and communication ■ Environment ■ Observation and documentation of children’s progress and curriculum planning ■ Staff/caregiver professional development plan ■ Family involvement plan ■ Administrative policies ■ Employee compensation and benefits ■ Ratios and group size ■ Accreditation <p>In FOCUS, there are separate sets of standards for center-based programs, family child care homes, and out of school time programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Foundations of Quality – which includes ratios, health promotion, staff qualifications and professional development ■ Quality Practices that Support Children’s Growth, Development, and Learning – which includes the learning environment, assessment and curriculum, reflective leadership <p><i>AIM HIGH Essential Elements of Quality</i> https://www.newmexicokids.org/content/caregivers_and_educators/aim_high/docs/AIM_HIGH_Essential_Elements_Final.20090401.pdf</p> <p><i>FOCUS Essential Elements of Quality for Center-Based Programs</i> https://www.newmexicokids.org/content/caregivers_and_educators/focus/docs/FOCUS_TQRIS_Center_Base_5-9-12rev.pdf</p> <p><i>FOCUS Essential Elements of Quality for Family Child Care Homes</i> https://www.newmexicokids.org/content/caregivers_and_educators/focus/docs/FOCUS_TQRIS_FamilyChildCare_5-9-12rev.pdf</p> <p><i>FOCUS Essential Elements of Quality for Out of School Time Programs</i> https://www.newmexicokids.org/content/caregivers_and_educators/focus/docs/FOCUS_TQRIS_Out_of_School_Time_7-30-12rev.pdf</p>

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Programs Eligible to Participate in QRIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child care centers ■ Group child care homes ■ Family child care homes ■ Early Head Start programs ■ Head Start programs ■ Pre-kindergarten programs ■ School-age programs
Use of Accreditation	<p>Accreditation is required to obtain a 5-star license (i.e., the highest level) in AIM HIGH. In FOCUS, programs with a 5-star license designation must be accredited by an approved accrediting body or meet 5-star standards of the state’s TQRIS.</p>
Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Association of Christian Schools International ■ Council on Accreditation ■ Council on Accreditation, After School Programs (formerly the National AfterSchool Association) ■ International Christian Accrediting Association ■ 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 <p>On April 3, 2013, all national early childhood accreditation organizations received a letter from the Children, Youth and Families Department providing information regarding the process required for their organization to gain state recognition of their early childhood accreditation for 5-star status. This process is needed to remedy the inconsistencies in quality of care that currently exist across 5-star programs. Current accredited programs have until January 1, 2018 to transition to a state-recognized early childhood accreditation or transition to Level 5 of the State’s FOCUS TQRIS.</p>
FINANCIAL INCENTIVES	
Financial Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Tiered subsidy reimbursement ■ T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood New Mexico