



## QRIS State Profile: Oklahoma

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<p>Implemented in 1998, Oklahoma’s <b>Reaching for the Stars</b> is considered to be the first State comprehensive quality rating and improvement system. It has four levels of child care program quality (One Star, One Star Plus, Two Star, and Three Star) and all licensed child care providers are awarded at least one star. From its inception, Reaching for the Stars has had three goals: to raise the Oklahoma Department of Human Services reimbursement rate, resulting in more slots for children whose families receive child care assistance; to improve the competency level of child care providers, in order to increase the overall quality of programs; and to provide a system whereby parents can evaluate the quality of child care programs.</p>	
<b>CONTACTS</b>	
<b>QRIS Name</b>	Reaching for the Stars
<b>Organization</b>	Child Care Services, Oklahoma Department of Human Services
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.okdhs.org/programsandservices/cc/stars/">http://www.okdhs.org/programsandservices/cc/stars/</a>
<b>RATING LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS</b>	
<b>Levels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ One star</li> <li>■ One star plus</li> <li>■ Two stars</li> <li>■ Three stars</li> </ul>
<b>Rating Assignment Method</b>	<p><b>Building blocks:</b></p> <p>All licensed providers are automatically designated as one star in Reaching for the Stars. For each remaining level, providers must meet the requirements of that level and those of previous levels. Three-star providers are accredited.</p>

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<b>Use of Environment Rating Scales and Other Assessments</b>	Oklahoma requires programs to be assessed with ERS, but does not tie particular scores to the ratings. Assessments are not required for programs accredited by an approved national accrediting body.
<b>Program Assessments Included in QRIS</b>	<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>■ Child and Caregiver Interaction Scale</li> <li>■ Arnett Caregiver Interaction Scale</li> <li>■ Early Learning and Literacy Classroom Observation tool</li> <li>■ Program Administration Scale</li> <li>■ Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)</li> </ul>
<b>QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS</b>	
<b>QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Site</b>	<p>There are separate standards for child care centers and FCC homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Licensing status and compliance</li> <li>■ Administrative</li> <li>■ Qualifications (for directors, staff, and providers)</li> <li>■ Professional development</li> <li>■ Learning environment</li> <li>■ Family engagement</li> <li>■ Program evaluation</li> </ul> <p><i>Reaching for the Stars for Child Care Centers</i>  <a href="http://www.okdhs.org/NR/rdonlyres/A800CCFD-4403-46DC-90D1-D061821D9CB5/0/9939_ReachingfortheStarsforChildCareCenters_occs_07012012.pdf">http://www.okdhs.org/NR/rdonlyres/A800CCFD-4403-46DC-90D1-D061821D9CB5/0/9939_ReachingfortheStarsforChildCareCenters_occs_07012012.pdf</a></p> <p><i>Reaching for the Stars for Family Child Care Homes</i>  <a href="http://www.okdhs.org/NR/rdonlyres/0D2AAB44-3B1B-4300-BC93-CD39E30E14D9/0/9943_ReachingfortheStarsforFamilyChildCareHomes_occs_06012012.pdf">http://www.okdhs.org/NR/rdonlyres/0D2AAB44-3B1B-4300-BC93-CD39E30E14D9/0/9943_ReachingfortheStarsforFamilyChildCareHomes_occs_06012012.pdf</a></p> <p>Policies for the differential quality rating and improvement certification are located in Sections 8.3-8.10, Subchapter 1 General Provisions, Chapter 110 Licensing Services, OKDHS Oklahoma Administrative Code 340  <a href="http://www.okdhs.org/library/policy/oac340/110/01/0008003.htm">http://www.okdhs.org/library/policy/oac340/110/01/0008003.htm</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>■ Preschools</li> <li>■ School-age programs</li> <li>■ Head Start and Early Head Start</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Accreditation</b>	<p>Providers can reach a 2-star level by meeting level 1 requirements and being accredited.</p> <p>Providers can reach a 3-star level by meeting all 1, 1+, and 2 star criteria and being accredited.</p>
<b>Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Association for Christian Schools International</li> <li>■ Council on Accreditation</li> <li>■ Council on Accreditation, After School Programs (formerly the National AfterSchool Association)</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 Association for Family Child Care</li> <li>■ National Early Childhood Program Accreditation</li> <li>■ Head Start Performance Standards (compliance)</li> </ul>
<b>FINANCIAL INCENTIVES</b>	
<b>Financial Incentives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tiered subsidy reimbursement</li> <li>■ The Scholars for Excellence in Child Care initiative (scholarships and mentoring)</li> <li>■ REWARD Oklahoma compensation initiative</li> </ul>