



## QRIS State Profile: Pennsylvania

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<p>Pennsylvania’s <b>Keystone STARS</b> is an initiative of the Department of Public Welfare to improve, support, and recognize quality child care programs in Pennsylvania by working to support the capacity and quality of programs. The Keystone STARS Performance Standards provide the foundation for the program. The Performance Standards are grouped into four levels: STAR 1, STAR 2, STAR 3, and STAR 4. The standards address staff qualifications and professional development, the early learning program, partnerships with family and community, and leadership and management.</p>	
<b>CONTACTS</b>	
<b>QRIS Name</b>	Keystone STARS
<b>Organization</b>	Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=Programs_STARS">http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=Programs_STARS</a>
<b>RATING LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS</b>	
<b>Levels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ STAR 1</li> <li>■ STAR 2</li> <li>■ STAR 3</li> <li>■ STAR 4</li> </ul>
<b>Rating Assignment Method</b>	<p><b>Building blocks:</b></p> <p>Child Care providers in Keystone STARS must have current licenses. For each level 1 through 4, providers must meet the requirements of that level and those of previous levels. To reach the STAR 4 level (i.e., the highest level), providers must meet all STARS performance standards, <u>or</u> be nationally accredited and meet STAR 4A accreditation standards.</p>

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<b>Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments</b>	Keystone STARS includes a required ERS assessment. At the STAR 1 level, providers complete a learning environment checklist. At the STAR 2 level, providers complete an ERS self-assessment and develop a plan to improve any scores below 3.0. Specific ERS facility and sampled scores are required at the STAR 3 and 4 levels.
<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>■ Program Administration Scale (PAS) (Voluntary for continuous improvement)</li> <li>■ Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) (Voluntary for continuous improvement)</li> </ul>

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<b>QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS</b>	
<p><b>QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Site</b></p>	<p>There are separate sets of standards for child care centers, group family child care (FCC) homes, and FCC homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Staff qualifications and professional development</li> <li>■ Learning program</li> <li>■ Partnerships with family and community</li> <li>■ Leadership and management</li> <li>■ Continuous quality improvement</li> </ul> <p><i>Keystone STARS Center Performance Standards for FY 2013-2014</i> (July 2013)  <a href="http://www.pakeys.org/docs/ELS.KS%2013-03.2013-2014%20Keystone%20STARS%20Performance%20Standards%20for%20Centers.pdf">http://www.pakeys.org/docs/ELS.KS%2013-03.2013-2014%20Keystone%20STARS%20Performance%20Standards%20for%20Centers.pdf</a></p> <p><i>Keystone STARS Family Child Care Home Performance Standards for FY 2013-2014</i> (July 2013)  <a href="http://www.pakeys.org/docs/ELS.KS%2013-03.2013-2014%20Keystone%20STARS%20Performance%20Standards%20for%20Family%20CCH.pdf">http://www.pakeys.org/docs/ELS.KS%2013-03.2013-2014%20Keystone%20STARS%20Performance%20Standards%20for%20Family%20CCH.pdf</a></p> <p><i>Keystone STARS Group Home Performance Standards for FY 2013-2014</i> (July 2013)  <a href="http://www.pakeys.org/docs/ELS.KS%2013-03.2013-2014%20Keystone%20STARS%20Performance%20Standards%20for%20Group%20Homes.pdf">http://www.pakeys.org/docs/ELS.KS%2013-03.2013-2014%20Keystone%20STARS%20Performance%20Standards%20for%20Group%20Homes.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Programs Eligible to Participate in QRIS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Child care centers</li> <li>■ Group child care homes</li> <li>■ Family child care homes</li> <li>■ Head Start/Early Head Start standalone programs</li> <li>■ School-age, regulated child care programs</li> </ul>
<p><b>Use of Accreditation</b></p>	<p>To reach the STAR 4 level (i.e., the highest level), providers must meet all STARS performance standards, <u>or</u> be accredited and meet STAR 4 Accreditation Standards.</p>

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<b>Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>■ Annual Merit Awards for STAR 2,3, or 4</li> <li>■ Rising STARS Support Grants</li> <li>■ Education and Retention Awards are available to eligible Rising STARS Tuition Assistance Program</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Information</b>	<p>In Pennsylvania, for the standards on staff qualifications and professional development, facilities must comply with the Head Start Performance Standards if they are Head Start sites or serving Head Start children.</p>