



QRIS State Profile: South Carolina

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
INTRODUCTION	
<p>The ABC Quality program's mission is to make quality child care more available and affordable to parents, and to increase the quality of care for all children in the state. The ABC Quality QRIS helps providers voluntarily achieve higher standards of quality in caring for the children and families they serve. Approximately 60% of all regulated providers choose to be rated in ABC Quality. The ABC Quality program is a vital component of a continuum of services provided by the Division of Early Care and Education.</p>	
CONTACTS	
QRIS Name	ABC Child Care Program
Organization	The South Carolina ABC Child Care Program
Web Site	www.scchildcare.org
RATING LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS	
Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Level A+ (highest level) ■ Level A ■ Level B+ ■ Level B ■ Level C (licensing)
Rating Assignment Method	<p>Building blocks: All providers are evaluated using ERS (at Level A) or state-developed assessment instruments (at Levels B and C). Any regulated provider may be rated in ABC Quality and qualify for incentives, supports, and services; payments to those who care for subsidy children are based on the level of quality they are awarded. Licensing forms the basis for the QRIS, although in some circumstances exempt providers are paid at Level C.</p>

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Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments	To achieve a Level A rating, programs must have an average score of 4.5 on an ERS assessment, with an Interaction subscale score of at least 4.
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) ■ School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS)
QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS	
QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Site	<p>There is one set of standards for child care centers and FCC homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Regulatory requirements ■ Supervision of children ■ Administration ■ Staff qualifications and development ■ Health and safety ■ Menu planning and meal service ■ Parent/guardian involvement ■ Staff-child ratios (Level B) ■ Staff-parent interaction (Level B) ■ Staff-child interactions (Level B) ■ Activities (Level B) ■ Physical environment (Level B) <p>Quality Standards for Levels A, B, and C www.schildcare.org</p>

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Programs Eligible to Participate in QRIS	Eligible providers include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child care centers ■ Group child care homes ■ Family child care homes ■ License exempt providers caring for subsidy children ■ Early Head Start programs ■ Head Start programs ■ Pre-kindergarten programs ■ School-age programs
Use of Accreditation	Accreditation is not included in the QRIS
Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS	
FINANCIAL INCENTIVES	
Financial Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Tiered subsidy reimbursement ■ T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood South Carolina ■ Grants ■ Other incentives (i.e. scholarships)