

QRIS Goals and Objectives

This material was developed under a previous contract with the Office of Child Care. While these materials are up to date, the National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement plans to issue an Information Product later this year that will update and/or expand on these materials. The National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement does not endorse any non-Federal practice, organization, publication, or resource.

About QRIS

A quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) is a systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early and school-age care and education programs. Similar to rating systems for restaurants and hotels, QRIS award quality ratings to early and school-age care and education programs that meet a set of defined program standards. By participating in their State's QRIS, early and school-age care and education providers embark on a path of continuous quality improvement. Even providers that have met the standards of the lowest QRIS levels have achieved levels of quality that are beyond the minimum requirements to operate.

QRIS are composed of five common elements: (1) standards; (2) accountability measures; (3) program and practitioner outreach and support; (4) financial incentives; and (5) parent/consumer education efforts.

QRIS Goals and/or Objectives

The following are the stated goals and/or objectives of a sample of statewide QRIS. This does not include goals and/or objectives for all statewide QRIS.

Delaware

Delaware Stars for Early Success

<http://www.dieec.udel.edu/delaware-stars-participating#>

Vision:

- All of Delaware's children and families will have access to quality early care and education from birth through school-age.

Mission:

- Increase access to quality early care and education for all of Delaware's children, with initial focus on children and families of low-income.
- Design and implement a system that defines quality and supports the development of quality early care and education programs.
- Engage the legislature and policymakers in supporting the implementation of Delaware Stars.
- Provide consumer education about the importance of early care and education and Delaware's system for providing quality programs.

Goals:

- By 2009 early care and education programs will recognize the Delaware Stars symbol as an indicator of quality early care and education.
- By 2010 the public will recognize the same.
- By 2010 Delaware will have adopted a tiered reimbursement system to support programs participating in Delaware Stars.
- By 2015 an increased number of Delaware's early care and education programs will be participating in the Stars system: 75% of centers and 15% of family child care.
- By 2015 an increased number of programs participating in Purchase of Care will be rated at Star Level 3 or higher; at least 50%.
- By 2015 all programs sponsored by the state will participate in Delaware Stars.

Kentucky

STARS for KIDS NOW Child Care Quality Rating System

<http://cdar.uky.edu/stars/>

- Increase quality of child care for all children;
- Reward and improve child care quality;
- Provide consumer awareness and guidance; and
- Increase capacity for subsidy children in higher quality programs.

Maine

Quality for ME

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/qualityforme.htm>

- Recognize child care programs that provide quality care;
- Encourage providers to increase their level of quality; and
- Provide parents with identifiable standards of quality.

Maryland

Maryland Child Care Tiered Reimbursement Program

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/credentials/tiered

- Promote a well-qualified workforce;
- Increase the amount of Purchase of Care payments to child care programs;
- Promote a high level of program quality through application of standards for program accreditation and environment rating scales; and
- Encourage parent involvement in child care settings.

Oklahoma

Reaching for the Stars

<http://www.okdhs.org/programsandservices/cc/stars/>

- Increase the training and education of child care providers, thereby improving the overall quality of care;
- Provide parents with a method to evaluate child care; and
- Increase the reimbursement that child care providers receive and increase slots for low-income families.