

CHILD CARE QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM IN WEST VIRGINIA

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What is a QRIS?

- A Quality Rating and Improvement System is a systematic approach to assess, improve and communicate the level of quality in early care and school age care education programs.

What is the Purpose of a QRIS?

- A Quality Rating and Improvement System is designed to select key indicators of quality to support quality improvement and to assist parents in identifying and accessing quality programs for their children.

Why is a QRIS needed?

- High quality care has been shown to lead to positive outcomes for children that last into adulthood.
- Economic research shows that investments in early childhood show a high rate of return.
- The earlier we invest in quality services for young children, the higher rate of return on our investment.

Why is a QRIS needed?

Quality early childhood services can:

- ❑ Improve school readiness and reduce costs of remedial education.
- ❑ Decrease incidence of criminal activity, reducing criminal justice costs.
- ❑ Increase earnings, thereby reducing welfare cost.
- ❑ Support brain development and promote healthy physical and emotional development, which may result in decreased costs for diseases such as diabetes, mental illness and heart disease.

What are the elements of a QRIS?



Components:

- Quality Standards
- Program and Practitioner Outreach and Support
- Financial Incentives
- Accountability Measures
- Parent/Consumer Education Efforts

Quality Standards

Widely accepted expectations for the quality of care that commonly include expectations for:

- ❑ Professional Development
- ❑ Family involvement
- ❑ Learning Environment/Curriculum
- ❑ Ratios/Group Sizes
- ❑ Health and Safety
- ❑ Administrative Policies and Procedures
- ❑ Program Evaluation
- ❑ Licensing Status/Compliance

Accountability Measures

Assessment systems are necessary to measure compliance and are used to determine a quality rating for a program. Essential components include:

- A valid and reliable assessment tool
- Methods/staffing for conducting assessments
- Policy and procedure for approvals, denials, closures , etc.

Program and Practitioner Outreach/Support

QRIS include provider supports to promote participation and help programs achieve higher levels of quality. Supports include:

- Training,
- Mentoring, and
- Technical assistance

Financial Incentives

QRIS use financial incentives to help providers improve learning environments, attain higher ratings, and sustain long-term quality. Incentives include:

- ❑ Increased CCDF subsidy reimbursement rates,
- ❑ Bonuses, quality grants, or merit awards;
- ❑ Refundable tax credits;
- ❑ Loans linked to quality ratings;
- ❑ Priority on applications for practitioner wage initiatives, scholarships, or other professional development supports.

Parent and Consumer Education Efforts

- QRIS provide a framework for educating parents about the importance of quality in early and school-age care and education. Methods include:**
- Use of easily recognizable symbols, such as stars, to indicate the levels of quality.
 - Posting of ratings on Web sites.
 - Use of media, posters, banners, certificates, decals, pins, and other items that rated programs can display.
 - Use of CCR&R agencies.



WHAT DO WE HAVE IN PLACE
TO IMPLEMENT A QRIS



WV Code, Chapter 49, Article 2E

- Code passed in April 2009 that outlines system structure
- QRIS Advisory Council
- Promulgation of a legislative rule
- Cost Analysis
- Tiered reimbursement and other quality initiatives have been implemented

WV Tiered Reimbursement Program



- ❑ Financial incentive for child care programs that demonstrate higher quality standards of care are being met
- ❑ Increased subsidy payments
- ❑ Centers, facilities and family child care homes are eligible
- ❑ Voluntary
- ❑ Three quality tier levels

Tiered Reimbursement

Tier II

- Specific set of quality standards
- Verify compliance with supporting documentation
- \$2 more per day/per child

Tier III

- National accreditation through NAEYC, COA, or NAFCC
- Accrediting bodies have monitoring systems in place
- \$4 more per day/per child

Other Quality Initiatives

- Bonus payments for advancing quality tier
- Quality grants
- Center Accreditation Support Services (CASS)
- WV State Training and Registry System (WV STARS)
- Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS)
- Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (WV TEACH)

Other Quality Initiatives cont.

- Professional Development System
 - ▣ Infant/Toddler Specialist Network
 - ▣ Behavior Consultants
 - ▣ Early Childhood Specialists
 - ▣ Traveling Resource and Information Library System (TRAILS)
- Child Care Nurse Health Consultants
- Professional development programs



WHAT DO WE STILL NEED
TO IMPLEMENT A QRIS



FUNDING!



- Additional staff to provide technical assistance for programs and monitor compliance with standards
- Implement additional level of quality standards
- Public awareness campaign to recruit program participation and educate parents