

Supporting Babies Through QRIS



Implementation Status and Tools in US States & Jurisdictions

*By: Maria Victoria Mayoral, Senior Policy Analyst
November 2013*

Copyright Disclaimer

ZERO TO THREE grants to individual users of this publication non-assignable permission to photocopy and distribute the document for personal use or educational use. Receipt by an institution does not constitute a site license. This license does not grant the right to reproduce these materials for sale, redistribution, or any other purposes (including but not limited to books, pamphlets, articles, video- or audiotapes, and handouts or slides for lectures or workshops, or trainings, whether or not a fee is charged). Permission to reproduce these materials for these and any other purposes must be obtained in writing from the Permissions Department of the sponsoring organizations. Permission to reproduce these materials for these and any other purposes must be obtained in writing from the Permissions Department of ZERO TO THREE (www.zerotothree.org/permissions).

These materials are intended for education and training. Use of these materials is voluntary and their use does not confer any professional credentials or qualification to take any registration, certification, board or licensure examination, and neither confers nor infers competency to perform any related professional functions.

The user of these materials is solely responsible for compliance with all local, state, or federal rules, regulations or licensing requirements. Despite efforts to ensure that these materials are consistent with acceptable practices, they are not intended to be used as a compliance guide and are not intended to supplant or to be used as a substitute for or in contravention of any applicable local, state, or federal rules, regulations or licensing requirements. ZERO TO THREE expressly disclaims any liability arising from use of these materials in contravention of such rules, regulations or licensing requirements.

About Us

The ZERO TO THREE Policy Center is a nonpartisan, research-based, nonprofit organization committed to promoting the healthy development of our nation's infants and toddlers. To learn more about this topic or about the ZERO TO THREE Policy Center, please visit our website at:

www.zerotothree.org/public-policy

Acknowledgements

This project would not have been possible without the support of many people. The author wishes to express her deepest gratitude to Barbara Gebhard for her invaluable mentorship, guidance, and unwavering support. Many thanks to the members of the external review committee, including Gerry Cobb, Katherine Falen, Debi Matthias, Anne Mitchell, and Sheila Smith, for contributing their time, expertise, and knowledge. Their ideas were instrumental in the process of conceptualizing and successfully completing this project. Several members of the ZERO TO THREE team also substantially enriched the content and scope of this publication: Patty Cole, Jamie Colvard, Allyson Dean, Linda Gillespie, Patricia Haigler, Jani Kozlowski, Susan O'Connor, and Emily Schweitzer. Their thoughtful feedback and time are very much appreciated, and their comments helped shape and enhance the final product. A special thanks to Eric Vaughn and Debbie Rappaport for all their help and for spearheading the copy-editing and design process.

Preface

This document presents a national review of states' and jurisdictions' Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) [that have been implemented statewide](#), focusing on how these systems can include standards that explicitly address the needs of infants and toddlers. This publication is a "living document" because states' and jurisdictions' QRIS differ in terms of level of completion, and many are undergoing continuous revisions as a result of pre- or post-implementation evaluation efforts.

The former National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative (NITCCI), funded by the Office of Child Care and operated by ZERO TO THREE, was created to help Child Care and Development Fund administrators improve the quality and supply of infant-toddler child care. In 2011, NITCCI conducted a review of existing statewide QRIS, which revealed that indicators addressing the quality of care for infants and toddlers were largely absent. Now, the ZERO TO THREE Policy Center offers a more recent scan of the evolving QRIS landscape and documents the progress made thus far to include standards and supports to meet the needs of children from birth to age 3.

To continue to improve the quality of early care and education programs across the United States, federal, state, and local governments have increased their emphasis on standards, accountability measures, provider support, financial incentives, and parent/consumer education efforts. As a result, QRIS are gaining attention exponentially and have become a "framework to support quality in a systemic way." In April 2011, only 24 states and jurisdictions had developed and implemented a QRIS. By October 2013, 45 states and jurisdictions had taken steps to implement a QRIS (37 states and jurisdictions have launched statewide standards for a QRIS; two states and jurisdictions have launched regional standards for a QRIS; and six states and jurisdictions are in the process of developing a QRIS or have completed a pilot). In the remaining states and jurisdictions, 10 are undergoing a QRIS planning process (including conversations among key stakeholders and development of strategic plans), and one state requires legislative action in order to move forward.

This document is part of the ZERO TO THREE Policy Center's [Supporting Babies Through QRIS](#) series, developed to help ensure that QRIS are supporting the needs of infants and toddlers. Complementary documents in this series include:

- [Inclusion of Infant and Toddler Quality Standards](#) - Document charting some examples of QRIS standards that have been included in statewide-operating QRIS and intentionally help programs promote the healthy development and learning of infants and toddlers
- [A Self-Assessment Tool for States](#) - Tool for states and jurisdictions to identify the strengths, opportunities, and gaps in a coordinated system of quality improvement for programs serving infants and toddlers

The intended audience for these documents includes professionals involved in the development, administration, and implementation of QRIS who would like to learn more about QRIS standards and supports in other states and how they can be created or modified to purposefully support infants and toddlers.




Please note that, given the changing nature of QRIS tools and the fact that standards are not the only means used to evaluate all supports in place for infants and toddlers, the sample tools and corresponding links showcased in this document are only meant to present a picture of how states and other jurisdictions have structured their QRIS standards and the components that they have included.

ZERO TO THREE corroborated the information presented on the table below through collaborations and discussions with the BUILD Initiative and the National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement (September 2013). However, implementation status definitions vary across organizations. ZERO TO THREE does not endorse the external organizations or tools included in these website links. Furthermore, ZERO TO THREE neither controls nor guarantees the timeliness or completeness of the information contained in the website links since online information repositories can often become inactive and web addresses can change without notice.

Legend

Color	Status	Definition	Count
	Pilot In Process or Completed	QRIS piloting or field test is in process or has been finalized	6
	Planning for a QRIS	QRIS has been included in strategic planning process	10
	Regional QRIS Initiative Launched	QRIS has been launched from a regional perspective and might include regionally-driven QRIS standards	2
	State-Wide or Jurisdiction-Wide QRIS Initiative Launched	QRIS has been launched from a state-wide perspective and might include state-driven QRIS standards	37
	Requires Legislative Action	Legislative action is required in order to implement QRIS	1
Total			56

State/ Jurisdiction	Implementing Agency & QRI System <i>Name and/or Logo</i>	Link to Published Tool/ Standards/Reports <i>Last Updated/ Version Reviewed</i>	Implementation Status
Alabama (AL)	Alabama Department of Human Resources - Child Care Services Division		Planning
Alaska (AK)	Alaska's QRIS - Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Children's Services	Report Published 2008	Planning
American Samoa (AS)	American Samoa Government Department of Human and Social Services		Planning
Arizona (AZ)	First Things First 	Star Ratings based on assessment tools 2013	Statewide
Arkansas (AR)	DHS Division of Child Care and Early Education  better beginnings EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST	General Center-based Family Home 5/2010	Statewide
California (CA)	California Department of Education/ Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge Regional Leadership Consortia	http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/rt/rttelcapproach.asp 10/15/2012	Regional

State/ Jurisdiction	Implementing Agency & QRI System <i>Name and/or Logo</i>	Link to Published Tool/ Standards/Reports <i>Last Updated/ Version Reviewed</i>	Implementation Status
Colorado (CO)	Qualistar Early Learning 	http://www.qualistar.org/qualistar-rating-components.html ; No official “tool.” Qualistar Rating™ score calculated through “Family Partnerships” questionnaires; documentation of Family Partnerships activities; training and education documentation of staff; ECERS-R©, ITERS-R©, or FCCERS-R© observations; ratio and group size information 11/2012	Statewide
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (MP)	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Community and Cultural Affairs		Planning
Connecticut (CT)	Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet <i>(Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC)-partnered with the CT Head Start Association and the DSS Center Directors Group)</i>	Published Workgroup Final Recommendations 10/09/2008	Planning
District of Columbia (DC)	DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education / DC Child Care Connections	No current version available- “DC is currently considering several enhancements to the ‘Going for the Gold’ system.” Evaluation, including non-revised criteria; 2000-2010 Project launched in 2000; Evaluation Complete: 03/25/2010	District-Wide; V2 in Process
Delaware (DE)	Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood/ Children & Families First/ Department of Human Development & Family Studies / University of Delaware 	Child Care Center Family Child Care Large Family Child Care 7/17/2012	Statewide
Florida (FL)	The Early Learning Coalition of Duval 		Regional

State/ Jurisdiction	Implementing Agency & QRI System <i>Name and/or Logo</i>	Link to Published Tool/ Standards/Reports <i>Last Updated/ Version Reviewed</i>	Implementation Status
Florida (FL)	<p>The Associations of Early Learning Coalitions/ Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade County</p>  <p>Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County</p> 	<p>Quality Rating Improvement System</p> <p>Center Standards Family Child Care Standards</p>	Regional
Georgia (GA)	<p>Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL)</p> 	<p>Rating Rubric 9/27/2012</p>	Statewide
Guam (GU)	<p>Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services - Division of Public Welfare</p>		Planning
Hawaii (HI)	<p>Hawaii Department of Human Services</p>	<p>QRIS Policies & Procedures Manual 11/2012</p>	Pilot
Idaho (ID)	<p>Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, University of Idaho Idaho: STARS Quality Rating and Improvement System</p> 	<p>Home-Based Center-Based 2/24/2011</p>	Statewide
Illinois (IL)	<p>Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) through Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)</p> 	<p>Centers and School-Age Programs; 2009 Family & Group Family Homes; 2009 New System; Valid for FY 2013</p>	Statewide

State/ Jurisdiction	Implementing Agency & QRI System <i>Name and/or Logo</i>	Link to Published Tool/ Standards/Reports <i>Last Updated/ Version Reviewed</i>	Implementation Status
Indiana (IN)	Indiana Family & Social Services Administration 	Family & Group Family Homes Centers License-Exempt February 2008	Statewide
Iowa (IA)	Iowa Department of Human Services 	Center & Family (word documents); 2/1/2011	Statewide
Kansas (KS)	Child Care Aware of Kansas 	Kansas Quality Rating and Improvement System: 4 Step Process <i>Info not available</i>	Statewide <i>*Statewide standards, regional implementation support</i>
Kentucky (KY)	Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Department for Community Based Services 	STARS for KIDS NOW Operations Manual 4/2012	Statewide
Louisiana (LA)	Department of Children and Family Services 	Louisiana Quality Start Child Care Rating System 08/2013	Statewide
Massachusetts (MA)	Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care; Executive Office of Education 	Center-Based Standards Family Child Care Standards 2/13/2013	Statewide

State/ Jurisdiction	Implementing Agency & QRI System <i>Name and/or Logo</i>	Link to Published Tool/ Standards/Reports <i>Last Updated/ Version Reviewed</i>	Implementation Status
Maine (ME)	<p>Maine Department of Health and Human Services</p> 	<p>Center-Based</p> <p>Family Child Care Home</p> <p>Head Start</p>	Statewide
Maryland (MD)	<p>The Maryland State Department of Education, in partnership with the Johns Hopkins University Center for Technology in Education</p> 	<p>Center-based</p> <p>Family Child Care</p> <p>1/2013</p>	Statewide
Michigan (MI)	<p>Michigan Department of Education Office of Great Start</p> 	<p>Great Start to Quality Standards and Points</p> <p><i>Retrieved online April 2013</i></p>	Statewide
Minnesota (MN)	<p>http://www.parentawareratings.org/en/tols-providersearly-educators</p> 	<p>Licensed child care centers: Indicators and Scoring</p> <p>Licensed family child care programs: Indicators and Scoring</p> <p>2012</p>	Statewide
Mississippi (MS)	<p>Mississippi State University- Early Childhood Institute</p> <p>QUALITY STARS</p> 	<p>Mississippi State Child Care Quality Step System Criteria</p> <p>N/A</p>	Statewide
Missouri (MO)			Legislative Action Required

State/ Jurisdiction	Implementing Agency & QRI System <i>Name and/or Logo</i>	Link to Published Tool/ Standards/Reports <i>Last Updated/ Version Reviewed</i>	Implementation Status
Montana (MT)	Department of Public Health and Human Services: Early Childhood Services Bureau 	Center-based Family/Group 03/2013	Statewide
Nebraska (NE)	NE Department of Education, Health and Human Services, NeAEYC, Early Childhood Training Center, Regional Training Projects; Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services	Five-state pilot of QRIS – Report 2005/2006	Planning <i>Going Statewide on July 1, 2014 (mandated; legislation)</i>
Nevada (NV)	Nevada Office of Early Care and Education; Coaching Support - The Children's Cabinet; The Nevada Registry; T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Nevada 	Forms and Docs <i>*The pilot project was implemented for three years July 2009 - June 2012</i> 7/1/2013	Statewide
New Jersey (NJ)	New Jersey Inter Department Group (Human Services, Health, Education, Children and Families)/ Advocates for Children of New Jersey	Center-based; 4/22/2009 Recommendations Report 2010	Pilot
New Hampshire (NH)	New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Licensed Plus	Option 1 Quality Standards; 09/27/2012 Option 2 Quality Standards; 05/06/2010	Statewide
New Mexico (NM)	Youth and Families Department; New Mexico Kids 	Center-based Family Child Care 05/2012	Statewide
New York (NY)	NYS Early Childhood Advisory Council 	General Center-based; 11/19/2012 Family-based; 12/14/2012	Statewide <i>*Statewide standards, regional implementation support</i>

State/ Jurisdiction	Implementing Agency & QRI System <i>Name and/or Logo</i>	Link to Published Tool/ Standards/Reports <i>Last Updated/ Version Reviewed</i>	Implementation Status
North Carolina (NC)	<p>North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services- Division of Child Development and Early Education</p> 	<p>Child Care Center in Home; 08/01/2010 Family Home-Based; 01/2013</p>	Statewide
North Dakota (ND)	<p>North Dakota Growing Futures North Dakota Department of Human Services – in collaboration with and with funding from <i>The United Way of Cass-Clay and The Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation</i></p> 	<p>Star Framework Star Level-Specific Documents Observation Record 04/20/2012</p>	<p>Pilot <i>(Starting in 2014, the QRIS will be available for programs statewide)</i></p>
Ohio (OH)	<p>Department of Job and Family Services</p> 	<p>Child Care Centers Licensed Type A Homes 11/10/2011</p>	Statewide
Oklahoma (OK)	<p>Oklahoma Department of Human Services</p> 	<p>http://www.ccretulsa.org/pdfs/CenterStarResourceBook2012.pdf 7/1/12</p>	Statewide
Oregon (OR)	<p>The Teaching Research Institute; the Oregon Department of Employment Child Care Division; the U.S. Department of Education; and Center on Inclusion and Early Care and Education</p> 	<p>Family Child Care Center-Based 01/2013</p>	Pilot
Pennsylvania (PA)	<p>Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL)</p> 	<p>Center-Based Group Home Home-Based <i>Published 7/1-16/12; Serving FY 2012-2013</i></p>	Statewide

State/ Jurisdiction	Implementing Agency & QRI System <i>Name and/or Logo</i>	Link to Published Tool/ Standards/Reports <i>Last Updated/ Version Reviewed</i>	Implementation Status
Puerto Rico (PR)	<p>“Consejo multisectorial para la niñez temprana”/ University of Puerto Rico/ Puerto Rico Administration of Integral Child (ACUDEN)</p> 	N/A	Pilot
Rhode Island (RI)	<p>Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children</p> 	<p>Center-based; 12/2008 Family Child Care; 9/2009</p>	Statewide
South Carolina (SC)	<p>South Carolina Department of Social Services</p> 	<p>Standards Levels ABC Matrix; 1/1/07</p>	Statewide
South Dakota (SD)	<p>South Dakota Department of Social Services</p>		Planning
Tennessee (TN)	<p>Tennessee Department of Human Services/ University of Tennessee College of Social Work Office of Research and Public Service The Tennessee Star-Quality Child Care Program</p>	<p>Child Care Evaluation and Report Card Program Home-Based Center-Based Star-Quality Child Care Program Center-Based Home-Based</p>	Statewide
Texas (TX)	<p>Texas Workforce Commission</p> 	<p>Certification Guidelines- Only Center Based 07/2012</p>	Statewide
Utah (UT)	<p>Utah Department of Workforce Services: Office of Child Care (OCC)</p> 	<p>Standards Web Link <i>Live web; Retrieved 04/2013</i></p>	Statewide

State/ Jurisdiction	Implementing Agency & QRI System <i>Name and/or Logo</i>	Link to Published Tool/ Standards/Reports <i>Last Updated/ Version Reviewed</i>	Implementation Status
Vermont (VT)	Vermont Department of Children and Families, Agency of Human Services (STARS Brochure) 	Licensed Center- Based Licensed Home-Based NAEYC Accredited 09/2012	Statewide
Virgin Islands (VI)	U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Human Services		Pilot
Virginia (VA)	Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (Smart Beginnings) 	Classroom-based ; 11/4/2011 Family Child Care ; 3/5/2012	Statewide
Washington (WA)	Washington State Department of Early Learning 	Standards A Companion to the Quality Standards for Early Achievers Participants <i>Info not available; Accessed 2013</i>	Statewide
West Virginia (WV)	West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources/Division of Early Care and Education		Planning
Wisconsin (WI)	Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) 	Group Child Care ; 08/28/2012 Point Detail Evaluation Criteria Family-Based ; 03/01/ 2013 Point Detail Evaluation Detail	Statewide
Wyoming (WY)	Wyoming Department of Family Services - Early Childhood Division		Planning

References

¹ “Statewide implementation” of QRIS is defined as having launched QRIS at statewide level and/or having state-driven QRIS standards. States and jurisdictions with statewide implementation include: Arizona (AZ), Arkansas (AR), Colorado (CO), District of Columbia (DC), Delaware (DE), Georgia (GA), Idaho (ID), Illinois (IL), Indiana (IN), Iowa (IO), Kansas (KS), Kentucky (KY), Louisiana (LA), Massachusetts (MA), Maine (ME), Maryland (MD), Michigan (MI), Minnesota (MN), Mississippi (MS), Montana (MT), New Hampshire (NH), New Mexico (NM), New York (NY), North Carolina (NC), North Dakota (ND), Ohio (OH), Oklahoma (OK), Oregon (OR), Pennsylvania (PA), Rhode Island (RI), South Carolina (SC), Tennessee (TN), Texas (TX), Utah (UT), Vermont (VT), Virginia (VA), Washington (WA), and Wisconsin (WI).

² Linda K. Smith, “Continuous Quality Improvement: QRIS Is a Tool.” *BUILDing Strong Foundations* [blog], September 25, 2013. Retrieved October 1, 2013, from www.buildinitiative.org.