

Supporting Babies Through QRIS



Implementation Status and Tools in US States & Jurisdictions

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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

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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 August 2017, 47 states and jurisdictions had taken steps to implement a QRIS (40 states and jurisdictions have launched statewide standards for a QRIS; three states and jurisdictions have launched regional standards for a QRIS; and four states and jurisdictions are in the process of developing a QRIS or have completed a pilot). In the remaining states and jurisdictions, nine are undergoing a QRIS planning process including conversations among key stakeholders and development of strategic plans.

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	Defi	Count
	Pilot In Process or Completed	QRIS piloting or field test is in process or has been finalized	4
	Planning for a QRIS	QRIS has been included in strategic planning	9
	Regional QRIS Initiative Launched	QRIS has been launched from a regional perspective and might include regionally-	3
	State-Wide or Jurisdiction-Wide QRIS Initiative	QRIS has been launched from a state-wide perspective and might include state-driven QRIS	40
Total			47

State/ Jurisdiction	Implementing Agency & QRI System <i>Name and/or Logo</i>	Implementation Status
Alabama (AL)	Alabama Department of Human Resources - Child Care Services Division  <p>Alabama Quality STARS Quality Rating and Improvement System</p>	Pilot
Alaska (AK)	Alaska's QRIS - Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Children's Services  <p>Learn & Grow Alaska's Commitment to Quality Early Care & Learning</p>	Planning
American Samoa (AS)	American Samoa Government Department of Human and Social Services	Planning
Arizona (AZ)	First Things First  <p>QUALITY FIRST FIRST THINGS FIRST</p>	Statewide
Arkansas (AR)	DHS Division of Child Care and Early Education  <p>better beginnings EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST</p>	Statewide
California (CA)	California Department of Education/ Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge Regional Leadership Consortia	Regional

State/ Jurisdiction	Implementing Agency & QRI System <i>Name and/or Logo</i>	Implementation Status
Colorado (CO)	<p>Colorado Department of Human Services</p> 	Statewide
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (MP)	<p>Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Community and Cultural Affairs</p>	Pilot
Connecticut (CT)	<p>Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet</p>	Planning
District of Columbia (DC)	<p>DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education / DC Child Care Connections</p>	District- Wide
Delaware (DE)	<p>Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood/ Children & Families First/ Department of Human Development & Family Studies / University of Delaware</p> 	Statewide
Florida (FL)	<p>The Early Learning Coalition of Duval</p>  <p>Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade County</p>  <p>Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County</p> 	Regional

State/ Jurisdiction	Implementing Agency & QRI System <i>Name and/or Logo</i>	Implementation Status
Georgia (GA)	Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) 	Statewide
Guam (GU)	Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services - Division of Public Welfare	Planning
Hawaii (HI)	Hawaii Department of Human Services	Planning
Idaho (ID)	Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, University of Idaho: Idaho STARS Quality Rating and Improvement System 	Statewide
Illinois (IL)	ExceleRate Illinois 	Statewide
Indiana (IN)	Indiana Family & Social Services Administration 	Statewide
Iowa (IA)	Iowa Department of Human Services 	Statewide
Kansas (KS)	Child Care Aware of Kansas 	Regional

State/ Jurisdiction	Implementing Agency & QRI System <i>Name and/or Logo</i>	Implementation Status
Kentucky (KY)	Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Department for Community Based Services 	Statewide
Louisiana (LA)	Department of Children and Family Services 	Statewide
Massachusetts (MA)	Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care; Executive Office of Education 	Statewide
Maine (ME)	Maine Department of Health and Human Services 	Statewide
Maryland (MD)	The Maryland State Department of Education, in partnership with the Johns Hopkins University Center for Technology in Education 	Statewide
Michigan (MI)	Michigan Department of Education Office of Great Start 	Statewide

State/ Jurisdiction	Implementing Agency & QRI System <i>Name and/or Logo</i>	Implementation Status
Minnesota (MN)	<p align="center">Parent Aware</p> 	Statewide
Mississippi (MS)	<p align="center">QRIS is no longer active</p>	
Missouri (MO)	<p align="center">Missouri Department of Social Services</p>	Planning
Montana (MT)	<p align="center">Department of Public Health and Human Services: Early Childhood Services Bureau</p> 	Statewide
Nebraska (NE)	<p align="center">NE Department of Education, Health and Human Services, NeAEYC, Early Childhood Training Center, Regional Training Projects; Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services</p> 	Statewide
Nevada (NV)	<p align="center">Nevada Office of Early Care and Education; Coaching Support- The Children's Cabinet; The Nevada Registry; T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Nevada</p> 	Statewide
New Jersey (NJ)	<p align="center">New Jersey Inter Department Group (Human Services, Health, Education, Children and Families)/ Advocates for Children of New Jersey</p> 	Statewide

State/ Jurisdiction	Implementing Agency & QRI System <i>Name and/or Logo</i>	Implementation Status
New Hampshire (NH)	New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Licensed Plus	Statewide
New Mexico (NM)	Youth and Families Department; New Mexico Kids 	Statewide
New York (NY)	NYS Early Childhood Advisory Council 	Statewide
North Carolina (NC)	North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services- Division of Child Development and Early Education	Statewide
North Dakota (ND)	North Dakota Department of Human Services 	Statewide
Ohio (OH)	Department of Job and Family Services 	Statewide
Oklahoma (OK)	Oklahoma Department of Human Services 	Statewide
Oregon (OR)	Oregon Department of Education and The Teaching Research Institute 	Statewide
Pennsylvania (PA)	Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) 	Statewide

State/ Jurisdiction	Implementing Agency & QRI System <i>Name and/or Logo</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> 	Pilot
Rhode Island (RI)	<p>Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children</p> 	Statewide
South Carolina (SC)	<p>South Carolina Department of Social Services</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</p> 	Statewide
Texas (TX)	<p>Texas Workforce Commission</p> 	Statewide
Utah (UT)	<p>Utah Department of Workforce Services: Office of Child Care (OCC)</p> 	Statewide

State/ Jurisdiction	Implementing Agency & QRI System Name and/or Logo	Implementation Status
Vermont (VT)	Vermont Department of Children and Families, Agency of Human Services 	Statewide
Virgin Islands (VI)	U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Human Services	Pilot
Virginia (VA)	Virginia Department of Social Services 	Statewide
Washington (WA)	Washington State Department of Early Learning 	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) 	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 (IA), Kentucky (KY), Louisiana (LA), Massachusetts (MA), Maine (ME), Maryland (MD), Michigan (MI), Minnesota (MN), Mississippi (MS), Montana (MT), Nebraska (NE), New Hampshire (NH), New Jersey (NJ), New Mexico (NM), New York (NY), Nevada (NV), 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.