



NEVADA QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM QRIS

CENTER CHILD CARE MODEL

NV DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

# QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN IN NEVADA

A CULTURE OF CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

**QRIS Vision:** Quality Early Childhood Education for all Children in Nevada.

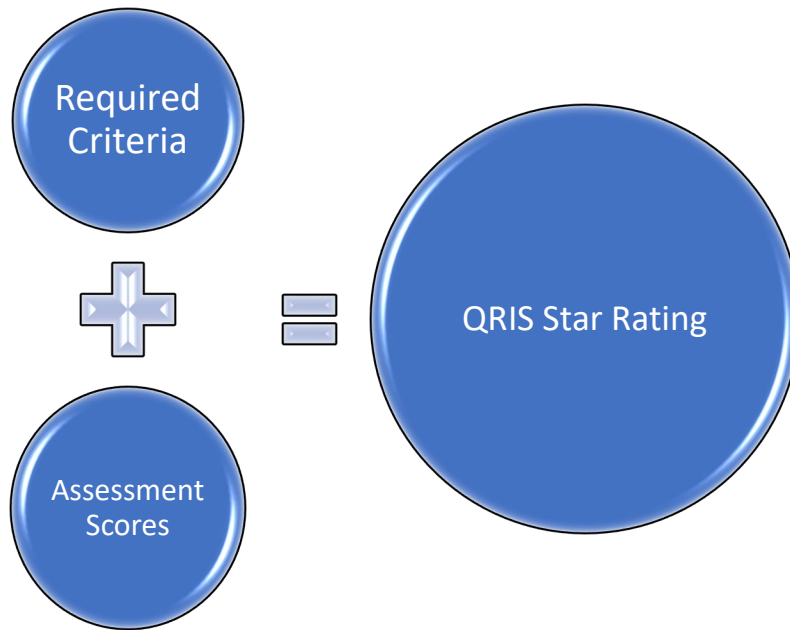
**QRIS Mission:** Through respectful & strong state partnerships, Nevada's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) works to equitably improve and sustain the early childhood system through; quality coaching, accurate assessing, financial support, community engagement and advocacy for the early childhood community to benefit families of young children in Nevada.

## **Definition of High-Quality Early Childhood Program**

A high-quality early childhood program is an inclusive environment that offers services at the highest possible levels for all children and families. These programs provide a safe environment, while promoting the physical, social emotional and cognitive development of all children. High quality environments celebrate and explore the culture, backgrounds and individuality of their children and families. The indicators of quality include, but are not limited to, policies and procedures and administrative practices that are best practices for the workforce, families and children. This would include ample age-appropriate materials; appropriate group size and ratios for each classroom and use of appropriate assessments to assess children's learning and development. Teaching approaches are individualized for each child and are active, stimulating and engaging. Thoughtful standards about health and safety are considered at the licensing level and beyond. Families and community partners are included and valued partners and are invited into all aspects of care and education. All the indicators of quality combine to create an environment that leads to the highest outcomes and lifelong success for the youngest learners in our state.

*-Quality definition provided by the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council*

## QRIS STAR RATINGS ARE BASED ON REQUIRED CRITERIA & ASSESSMENT SCORES



### NEVADA SILVER STATE STARS QRIS RATING:

Ratings will be based on compliance with QRIS Required Criteria and ERS Scores

#### **ENVIRONMENT RATING SCALE (ERS)**

Each program will be assessed using the following tools:

- Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (ECERS-3)
- Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (ITERS-3)

Ratings are based on average scores from ITERS-3 & ECERS-3 assessments, as applicable. Fifty percent of classrooms in each age group will be assessed. Classrooms will be randomly selected by the QRIS assessment team.



Rating Criteria				
One Star	Two Star	Three Star	Four Star	Five Star
Current Child Care License	Current Child Care License	Current Child Care License	Current Child Care License	Current Child Care License
Currently Registered with the Child Care Subsidy Program	Currently Registered with the Child Care Subsidy Program	Currently Registered with the Child Care Subsidy Program	Currently Registered with the Child Care Subsidy Program	Currently Registered with the Child Care Subsidy Program
	All Staff are currently ACTIVE on the Nevada Registry Career Ladder.	All Staff are currently ACTIVE on the Nevada Registry Career Ladder.	All Staff are currently ACTIVE on the Nevada Registry Career Ladder.	All Staff are currently ACTIVE on the Nevada Registry Career Ladder.
	25% of classrooms meet QRIS group size	50% of classrooms meet QRIS group size	75% of classrooms meet QRIS group size	100% of classrooms meet QRIS group size
	25% of classrooms meet QRIS Ratios	50% of classrooms meet QRIS Ratios	75% of classrooms meet QRIS Ratios	100% of classrooms meet QRIS Ratios
		Average ERS scores 3.5 or higher	Average ERS scores 4.0 or higher	Average ERS scores 4.5 or higher
		No classroom scores lower than 3.0	No classroom scores lower than 3.5	No classroom scores lower than 4.0
			Suspension and Expulsion Policy that aligns with NDE	Suspension and Expulsion Policy that aligns with NDE
				National Accreditation

**Update as of July 2021:** Previous iterations of the Nevada Silver State Stars QRIS included quality indicators as part of the rating criteria. These quality indicators will be included as a coaching tool moving forward but will no longer be factored into the star rating of programs. **Update March 2022:** Previously iterations of the NV QRIS required BRIGANCE Screen III results. This requirement has been removed from the table above and is no longer a QRIS requirement. Child screenings are still best practice and are required for state childcare licensing under NAC 432A.430.



## INCENTIVES FOR PARTICIPATION

**Coaching:** The Children's Cabinet will provide an in-person, highly trained professional coach for all participating programs for each coaching cycle until programs have achieved a high level of quality and are in the advanced maintenance coaching cycles.

**Quality Improvement Grants:** The Office of Early Learning and Development and The Children's Cabinet will provide one materials grant per coaching cycle. The amount of the grant is based on capacity of the center and length of participation in QRIS.

**Advancement Bonus:** Advancement bonuses are for programs that increase their star rating and range from \$250 - \$1000 based on capacity of the center. This bonus can be granted anytime during the coaching cycle if a program is re rated. These funds are not for materials, they are intended for celebration and recognition with program staff.

**ECSN Substitute Program:** The Early Childhood Support Network (ECSN) program offers temporary, on-call substitute care to licensed child care centers and family child care homes. The early childhood support network (ECSN) offers substitute teachers in licensed child care centers and family child cares in the metro areas of Reno/Sparks/Carson City and North Las Vegas/Las Vegas/Henderson/Boulder City.

**MCCYN-PLUS / DoD Fee Assistance Program Eligibility:** Beginning Fall 2021, QRIS is partnering with the Department of Defense and their fee assistance program. The program is called Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood -PLUS (MCCYN-PLUS). To enjoy the benefits of the fee assistance and serve these military families, programs must be participating in QRIS.

**National Accreditation Support:** The Office of Early Learning and development is eager to support programs with their goal to achieve national accreditation. We will provide a reimbursement to participating programs for all national accreditation fees. Contact the QRIS administrator for more information.

**Increased Subsidy Reimbursement Rates:** Rated programs will be reimbursed based on star level (1-5 stars) attained by the center through QRIS. To view the reimbursement rates, visit our website at: [https://doe.nv.gov/QRIS/Quality\\_Rating\\_and\\_Improvement\\_System/](https://doe.nv.gov/QRIS/Quality_Rating_and_Improvement_System/)

## QRIS SPECIALIZATIONS

The Office of Early Learning and Development is eager to roll out the specialization program in areas such as Family Engagement, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Quality Professional Culture. The specialization program is currently under development and review. Additional details are forthcoming.



Specializations are a chance for programs to celebrate areas of strength. These are *optional* opportunities to specialize in a way separate from the star rating. Specializations do not have an impact on QRIS star ratings. We currently have one area of quality specialization (Infant/Toddler); however, we plan to announce more as soon as they are confirmed and finalized.

## CONTACT US

General Email Address: [QRIS@doe.nv.gov](mailto:QRIS@doe.nv.gov)

Website: [https://doe.nv.gov/QRIS/Quality\\_Rating\\_and\\_Improvement\\_System/](https://doe.nv.gov/QRIS/Quality_Rating_and_Improvement_System/)