



# Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) Annual Report 2022-2023

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# Tracing the Evolution of QRIS in Nevada

Nevada's Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) has reached a significant milestone in 2023, marking its 10th year of statewide implementation. Over the years, the QRIS has undergone several transformations to enhance its effectiveness in promoting quality early childhood education. Let's take a moment to reimagine the evolution and impact of the QRIS in Nevada.

In 2009, Nevada assembled a group of early childhood education experts known as the QRIS Workgroup. This dedicated team developed the Silver State Stars QRIS, which introduced a 5-star rating system to evaluate and communicate the quality of child care centers. The workgroup also established quality indicators that formed the basis of the star ratings, along with a process for offering technical assistance and grant funding to support improvements in center quality.

To evaluate the feasibility and efficacy of the Silver State Stars QRIS, a pilot project was initiated in the spring of 2009. Over a two-year period, from 2009 to 2011, 24 child care centers participated in the pilot project. The insights gained from this initial implementation allowed for necessary adjustments and improvements to the program.

Based on the lessons learned during the pilot phase, an enhanced version of the program was launched in July 2011. Six additional centers were chosen to participate in the revised program, which ran from July 2011 to June 2012. These expanded trials further refined the QRIS, ensuring that it was better equipped to drive quality improvements in child care centers.

In July 2012, the Silver State Stars QRIS was officially launched in Southern Nevada. A year later, in July 2013, it was expanded statewide, encompassing all licensed child care centers across Nevada. This expansion allowed more centers to participate in the QRIS and benefit from its framework for quality improvement.

Recognizing the significance of early childhood education, Governor Sandoval took further action in June 2014 by establishing the Office of Early Learning and Development within the Nevada Department of Education. This office, mandated to oversee various early childhood funding sources, including QRIS and Nevada Ready! Stare Pre-K.

In 2019, the QRIS in Nevada embarked on a journey of reimagining its models to better serve the needs of providers and encourage their active participation. To achieve this, focus groups were formed, and an extensive review of the quality indicators and other necessary criteria was conducted. The aim was to make the QRIS more accessible, ensuring that providers could easily navigate the system and understand the steps needed to improve their quality ratings.

The results of these reimagined changes were remarkable. One of the most notable achievements was a significant decrease in the percentage of programs at the 2-star level, dropping from 52% to 34%. This shift indicated that more providers were successfully moving up the quality ladder. The positive impact was evident in the remarkable increase in both the 3-star and 4-star ratings. The 3-star level increased from 13% to 20%, showcasing providers' dedication to enhancing their program quality. Moreover, the 4-star level experienced a substantial jump from 14% to 29%, signifying an even greater commitment to excellence.

This progress is truly impressive and serves as a testament to the effectiveness of the QRIS model adjustments. By eliminating some of the obstacles that providers faced and addressing their specific needs, the QRIS successfully fostered an environment of growth and improvement. It is evident that the reimagined QRIS model has empowered providers, enabling them to overcome challenges and reach higher levels of quality in their programs.



# Paving a Way Towards Quality Child Care in Nevada



**2009-2011**

A QRIS Workgroup initiated the pilot project with 24 child care centers.

**2012**

OELD and DWSS officially launched the Silver State Stars QRIS in Southern Nevada.

**2014**

A new OELD in the Nevada Department of Education was created by Governor Sandoval through Executive Order.

**2021**

QRIS models were re-imagined.

**2011-2012**

Improvements were made to the QRIS model and added 6 additional childcare centers.

**2013**

QRIS was launched statewide.



# The Nevada Silver State Stars QRIS

## OUR VISION:

Quality early childhood education for all children in Nevada.



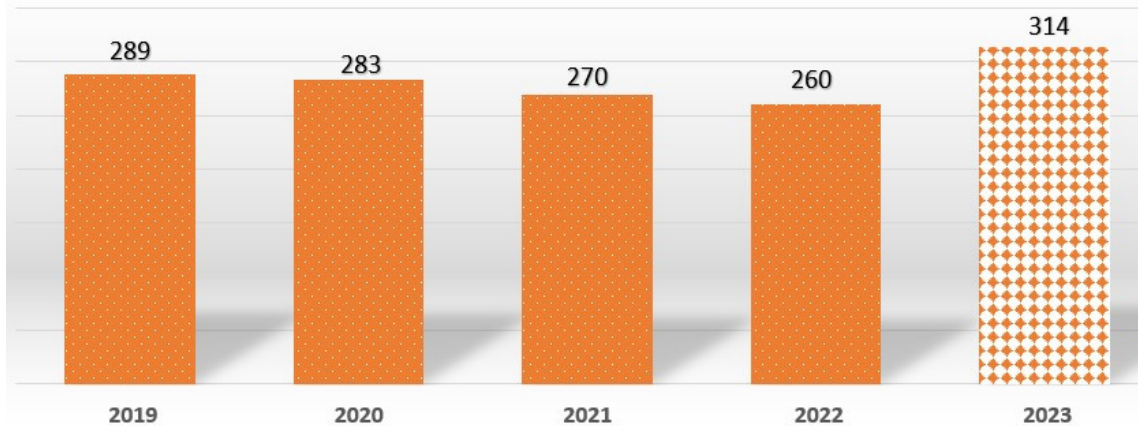
## OUR MISSION:

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.



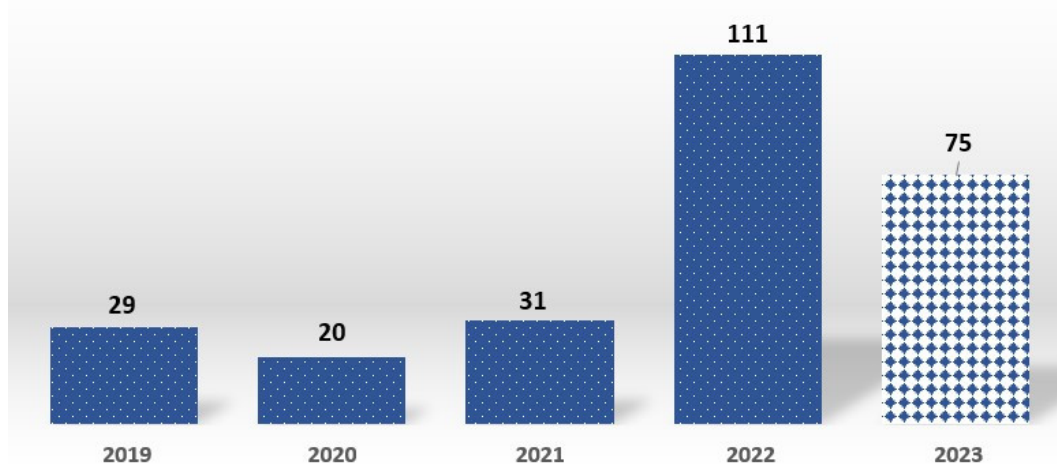
# Taking a look at QRIS Then and Now

## Nevada's QRIS Participating Programs 2019-2023



In 2019, QRIS had 289 active programs. The pandemic caused closures and challenges, resulting in a decline in providers. However, we saw a rebound by the end of 2022 and now have 314 active programs as of April 2023. This reflects the resilience and commitment of our early childhood education community. We applaud their dedication to quality programs.

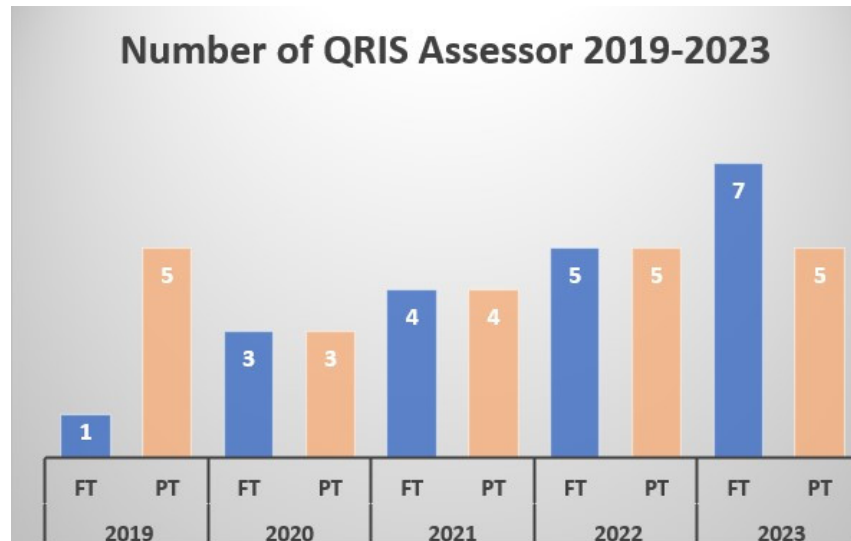
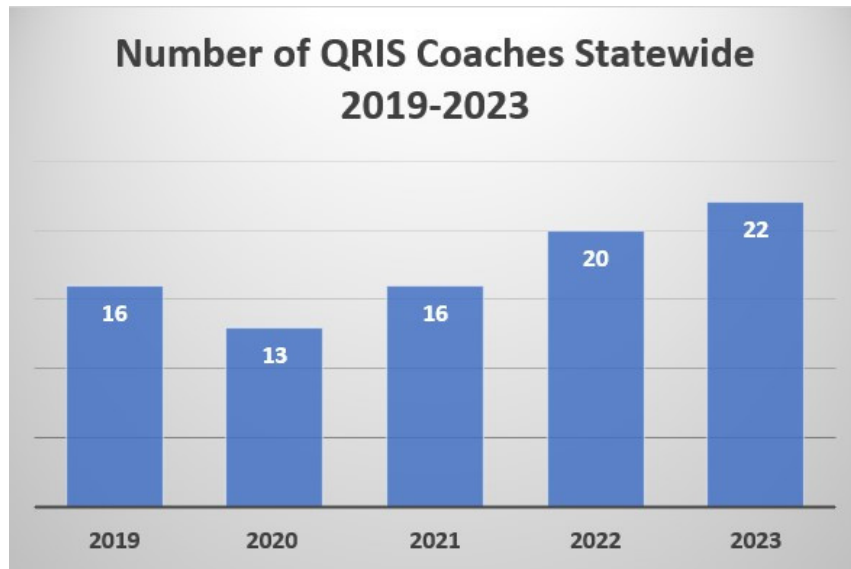
## QRIS Waitlisted Programs in Nevada 2019-2023



In 2022, we saw a positive recovery from the pandemic's challenges, and it brought a surge in provider interest to join QRIS. Reducing the waitlist is a priority, but it's a complex issue tied to factors like funding, resources, and recruiting qualified coaches for support.



# Taking a Look at QRIS Then and Now

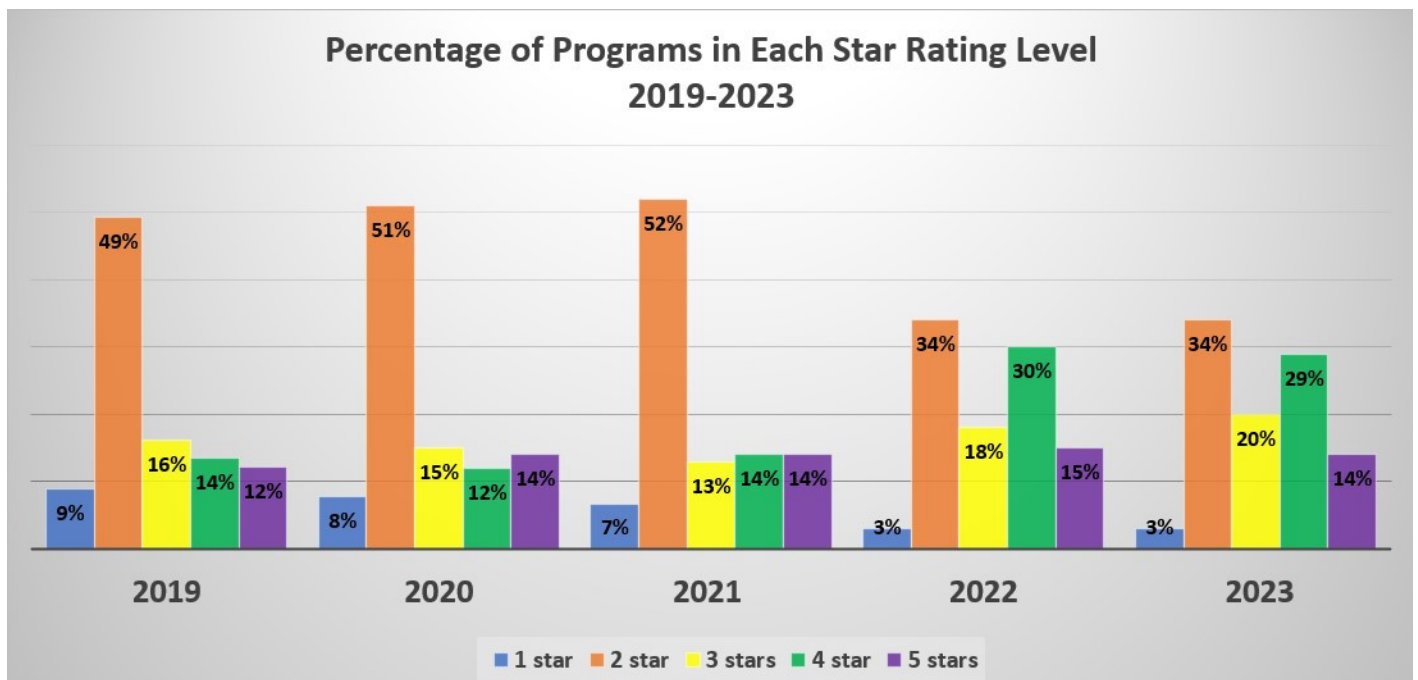


To support our growing number of providers within the QRIS system, we have expanded our coaching and assessor teams. In 2019, we had 16 coaches, but now we have 22 coaches covering all QRIS models. We have also increased our assessors from one full-time and five part-time to seven full-time and five part-time assessors. These enhancements allow us to provide more comprehensive support and timely evaluations to our providers.



# Taking a Look at QRIS Then and Now

Percentage of Programs in Each Star Rating Level  
2019-2023



QRIS has continuously refined its rating system, maintaining a 1-5 star scale while adapting requirements to better support providers. Notably, the data reveals a consistent decrease in the number of programs with a 1-star rating (blue bars), indicating an overall improvement in program quality.

Between 2019 and 2021, the majority of programs were rated at the 2-star level (orange bars). However, after the QRIS models were reimagined, there was a significant decline in the percentage of 2-star programs, dropping from 52% to 34%. This shift led to remarkable increases in both 3-star (green bars) and 4-star (purple bars) ratings. The progression is impressive, demonstrating the positive impact of QRIS model adjustments in overcoming obstacles for providers and fostering advancement.

The 5-star rating has remained relatively steady, ranging between 12% and 15%. This level's consistency can be attributed to the high accreditation standard associated with it. QRIS reimburses providers for their accreditation costs to encourage them to achieve the 5-star level and become accredited.

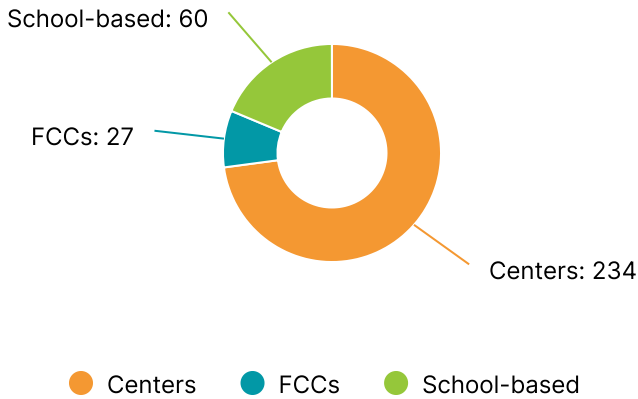
These statistics highlight the significant progress made within QRIS, showcasing the positive outcomes resulting from the revised models. The decrease in lower star ratings and the subsequent increase in higher star ratings reflect the overall improvement in program quality.





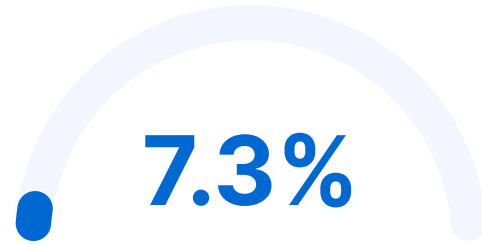


## QRIS Program Types in 2022-2023



As of April 2023, the distribution of programs across different QRIS models is displayed in the doughnut chart. The QRIS consists of 60 school-based programs, 27 Family Child Care (FCC) programs, and 234 center-based programs.

## Improvement in Star Rating in 2022-2023



In the 2022-2023 period, we witnessed a growth in star ratings for 7.3% of our programs. This upward trend signifies the dedication and commitment of our providers to enhancing the quality of early childhood education within QRIS.

## QRIS Infant/Toddler Specialization Badge



5

Five programs have earned the QRIS Infant/Toddler specialization badge. These programs have demonstrated high-quality commitment and expertise in catering to the unique needs of infants and toddlers within their care. QRIS plans to broaden its specialization badges to acknowledge providers' areas of excellence beyond just star ratings.

## QRIS programs awarded Infants/Toddlers Slots From the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)



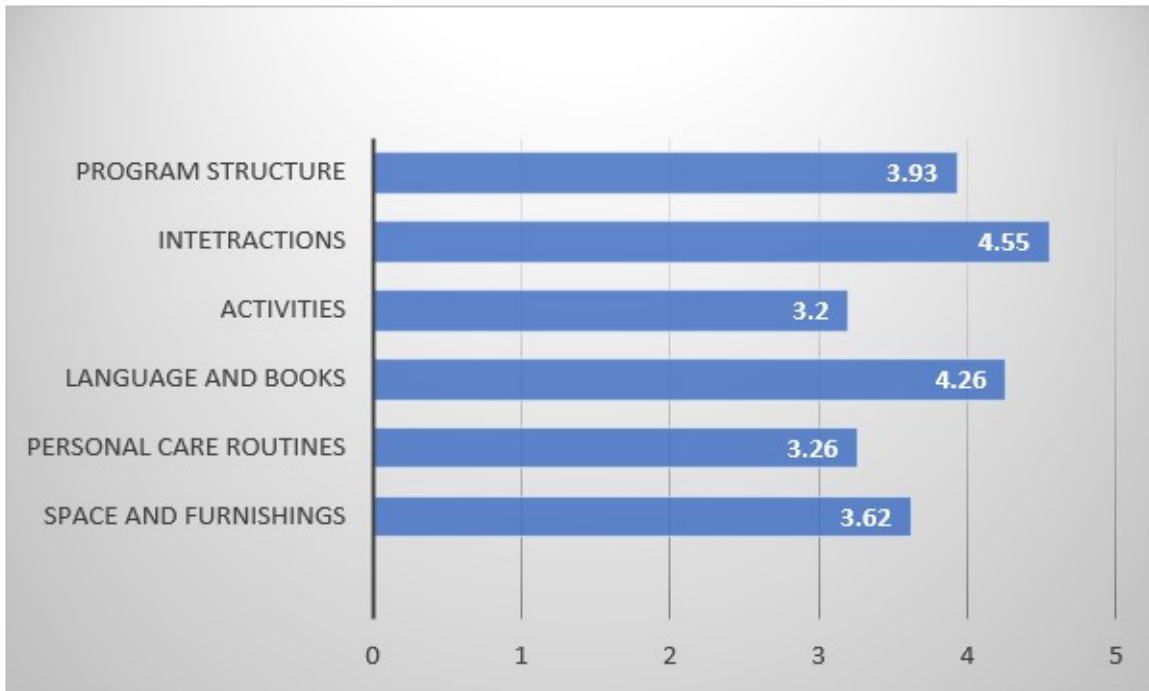
35

In another notable achievement, as of June 2023, a total of 35 QRIS programs have been awarded infant/toddler slots by the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS). This signifies the recognition of these programs' ability to provide high-quality care specifically tailored to the needs of our youngest learners.

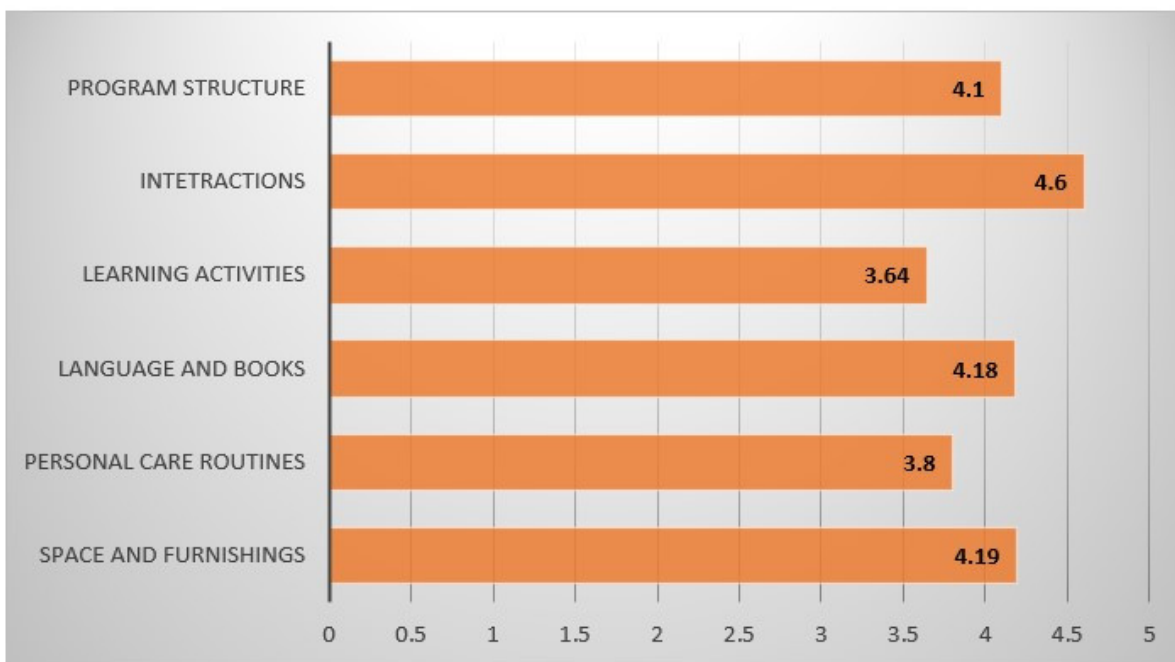


# ERS Average Scores

## Average Scores for ITERS-3 Subscales in 2022-2023

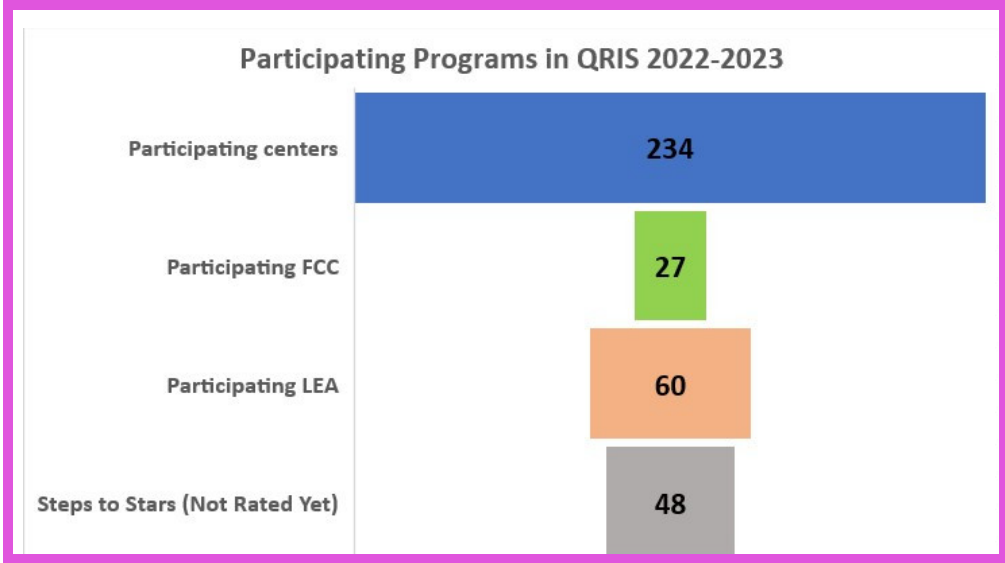
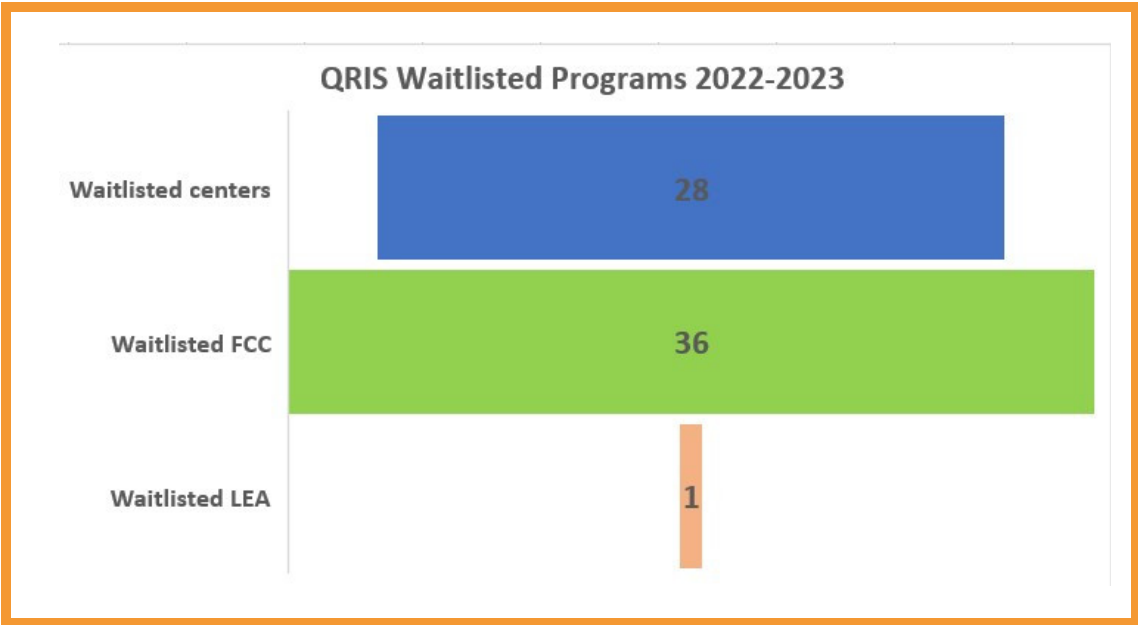
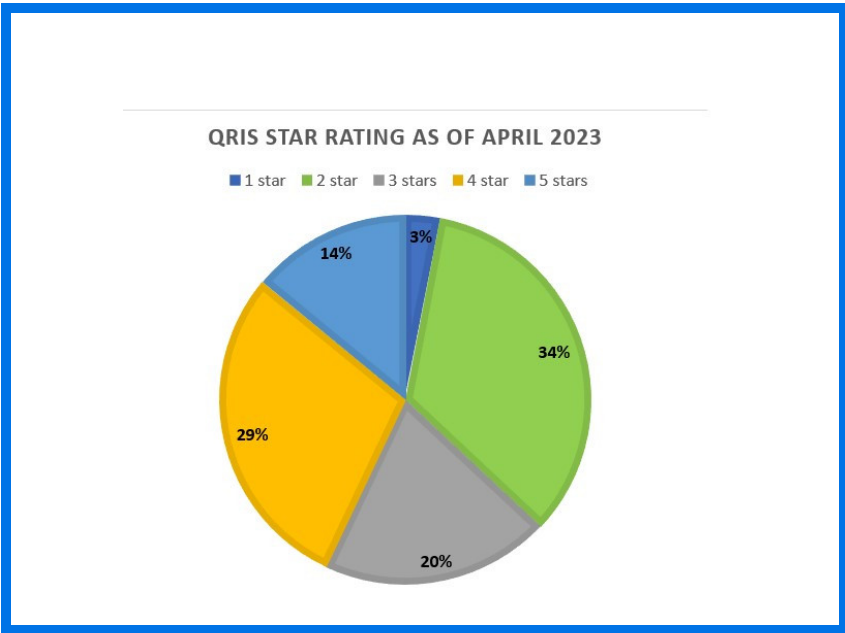


## Average Scores for ECERS-3 Subscales in 2022-2023





# Star Rating as of April 2023



# Support Provided by QRIS Coaches in 2022-2023



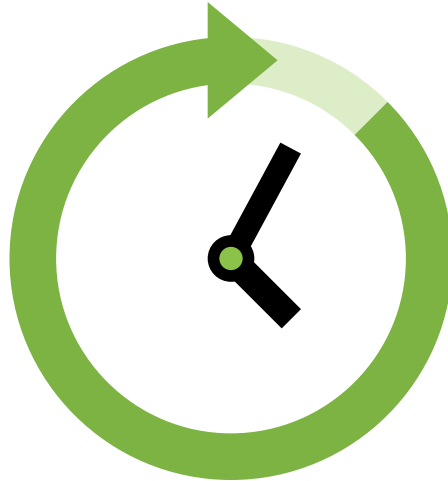
**Phone Calls**

**969 Hours**



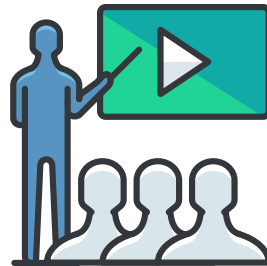
**E-coaching**

**146 Hours**



**Site Visits**

**8398 Hours**



**Training**

**2280 Hours**

# Support Provided by QRIS Assessors in 2022-2023

**4**

ERS trainings were conducted in **Spanish** language.

**306**

**Participants** attended training sessions conducted by the assessment team.



**453**

ERS rating **assessments and reports** were completed.

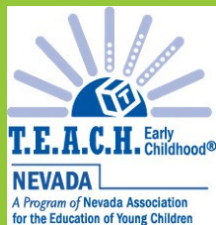
**126**

**ERS practice** assessments and reports were completed.



# Provider-Focused Partnerships

**T.E.A.C.H**



Throughout this year and in the foreseeable future, we have dedicated our efforts to fostering partnerships that bring immense value to our providers within the QRIS framework. We have actively supported quality programs through initiatives such as the infant/toddler slots from the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, collaborating closely with providers and partners to ensure the provision of exceptional environments and services for the betterment of our children and families.



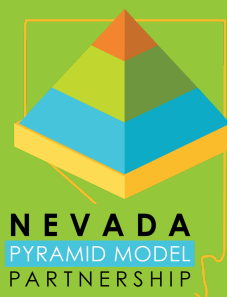
**Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)**



**Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS, MCCYN- PLUS**

**Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS)**  
Early Childhood Mental Health & Child Care Consultation Program

**Pyramid Model**



**Early Childhood Support Network (ECSN)**





**The Pilot Quality Improvement Tribal Model (QITM)**

# Taking QRIS Beyond the Stars



**QRIS Specialization Badges**



# The Pilot Quality Improvement Tribal Model (QITM)



## Continuous Quality Improvement

Programs will build their own quality measurable goals.



## Coaching

Coaching will be provided through the Children's Cabinet at the teacher and program level.



## Inclusive Assessment Process

To determine the quality focus for each program, a self-assessment process will be conducted involving both teachers and families.

## Building It Together!

The design process of this model involved sharing it with tribal programs through focus groups, where their feedback was incorporated.

## Support

Grants to support quality improvement and coaching will be provided at no cost to the programs.

## Uniqueness

Programs will be encouraged to infuse the native culture in every step of the way.

In our annual report, we are excited to announce the pilot of a new quality improvement model specifically designed for tribal programs in Nevada. This model aims to enhance the continuous quality improvement of classrooms and establish quality goals for the entire center, which will be determined in collaboration with the program and families involved. The pilot tribal model will provide comprehensive support through coaching, materials grants, and training opportunities. We anticipate that this initiative will bring significant positive impact to the participating tribal programs and contribute to their ongoing success.



Photos Courtesy of Las Vegas Tribe Child Development

**QRIS ANNUAL REPORT 2023**





# Taking QRIS Beyond the Stars

## QRIS Specialization Badges

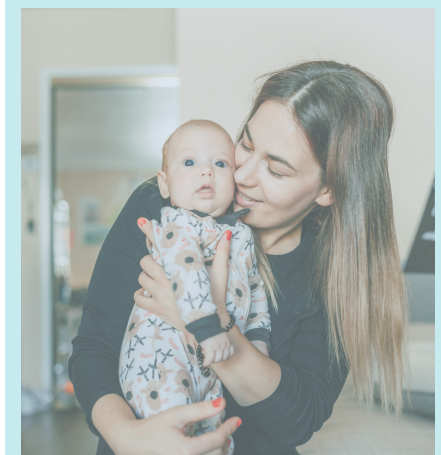
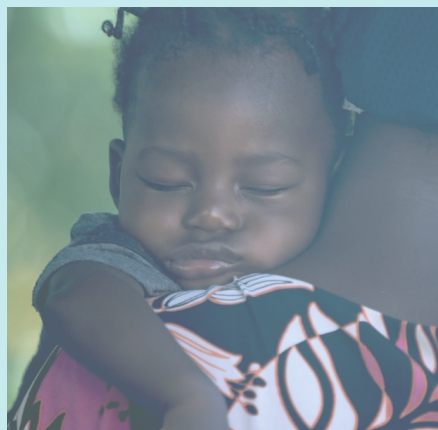
QRIS specialization badges have gained traction in Nevada, with the successful implementation of the infant/toddler badge. The plan is to build upon this achievement by expanding the range of specialization badges, recognizing and celebrating providers' strengths that go beyond the star rating system. These badges not only serve as a mark of distinction but also assist families in making informed decisions when selecting child care programs. By highlighting specific key quality areas that matter to families, the specialization badges offer valuable guidance, empowering families to choose programs that align with their values and priorities. This ensures that children receive care and education that is not only of high quality but also culturally meaningful and aligned with their families' preferences.



**QRIS providers that earn the QRIS infant/toddler specialization badge are eligible for the Infant/Toddler Slots from the Division of Welfare and Supportive services.**



**Five programs earned the Infant/Toddler Specialization Badge as of April 2023**



# CONTACT US



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