

QRIS OVERVIEW

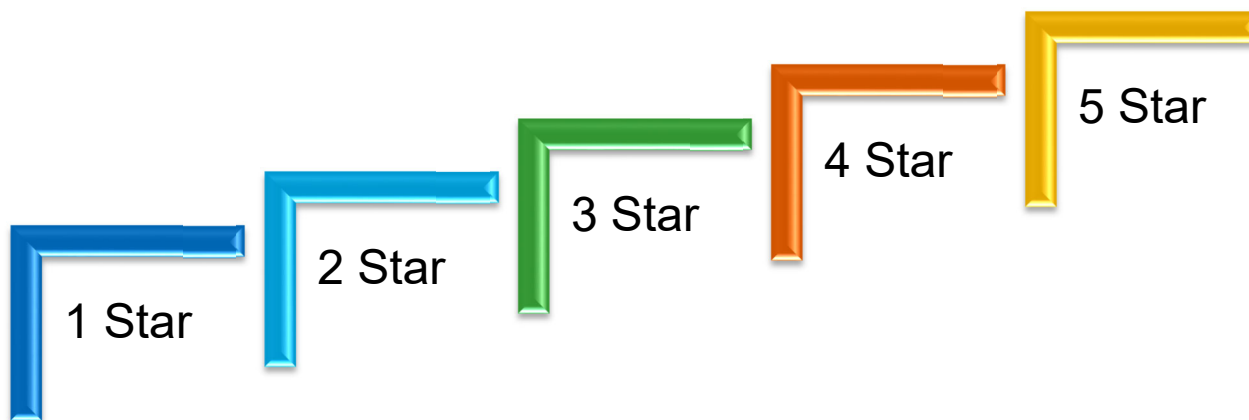
The Stars program is the name of Oklahoma's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). In 1998, Oklahoma was the first state in the nation to implement a statewide QRIS. Most states now have some form of a quality rating and improvement system. The Stars program is for all early care and education programs, including out-of-school time programs, that are shaping the lives of children and the future of our state. Our goals are for every provider to Reach for the Stars, grow professionally and be recognized for their accomplishments, for parents and the public to recognize and value quality practices, and for all of Oklahoma's children to benefit from the highest quality early childhood experiences.

What is a Quality Rating and Improvement System? A QRIS is a method to assess, improve, and communicate the positive practices in early care and education settings. The criteria used in QRIS are developed from research and what is universally considered quality care. Oklahoma's QRIS is designed to help providers improve the care and education they provide for children, raise the professional development level of early care and education teachers, and increase parents' awareness of the importance of positive practices in early care settings.

Child Care Services (CCS) is committed to providing the resources and incentives needed to increase Star levels. Please consult with your Licensing Specialist or Stars Outreach Specialist (SOS) to see how you can join other providers in improving early care and education in Oklahoma.

Levels of the Stars program certification

All programs who are on permit or license are automatically designated as a One Star program. The owner and primary caregiver must complete and submit the appropriate request for Star certification for 2, 3, 4 and 5 Star. In order for programs to be approved for a higher Star level, they must meet all criteria listed in the requested Star level as well as all lower levels, unless otherwise noted.



Complete Star policy can be located at <http://www.okdhs.org/services/cc/Pages/ChildCare.aspx>.
Resources in this book can help programs understand and implement the Stars program policy.

Alternate Pathways for 3, 4 and 5 Star levels

3 Star

Program must meet licensing and compliance status

Program must meet all 1, 2 and 3 Star criteria	or	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Be accredited by a CCS approved national accrediting agency OR2. Be a Head Start grantee compliant with Head Start Program Performance Standards.
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4 Star

Program must meet licensing and compliance status

Program must meet all 1, 2, 3 and 4 Star criteria.	or	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Program must meet all 4 Star criteria including specified criteria described in 8.11 and be<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. accredited by a CCS approved national accrediting agency ORb. a Head Start grantee compliant with Head Start Program Performance Standards.
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5 Star

Program must meet licensing and compliance status

Program must meet all 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Star criteria.	or	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Program must meet all 5 Star criteria including specified criteria described in 8.11 and be<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. accredited by a CCS approved national accrediting agency ORb. a Head Start grantee compliant with Head Start Program Performance Standards.
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