A quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) is a method used by states and local jurisdictions to assess the level of quality of child care and early education programs, improve quality, and convey quality ratings to parents and other consumers. A typical QRIS incorporates the following components: quality standards for participating providers; a system for measuring and monitoring provider quality; resources for providers to support quality improvement; financial incentives for providers who meet quality standards; and education and outreach to families about the ratings and how to choose a quality program for their children.

In 2010, Assessing States' Child Care Quality Rating Systems (QRS), a project funded by the U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, produced a compendium that documented features of QRISs in 25 states that had them at the time. An updated online version of the compendium was released in 2014, which included information on 38 states with QRISs.

Many jurisdictions with QRISs, as well as other interested organizations and individuals, have undertaken research and evaluation efforts to improve their understanding of QRIS implementation, validity, results, and impacts. This Topic of Interest provides a comprehensive list of state QRIS evaluations and research in the Research Connections collection. If you know of state QRIS research and evaluation publications not included in this list, please let us know at contact@researchconnections.org.
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Delaware
Florida
Georgia
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
Nevada
New Jersey
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Tennessee
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Multistate

Arizona


Arkansas


California


Hawkinson, L. E., Quick, H., Muenchow, S., Anthony, J., Weinberg, E., Holod, A., Parrish, D., & et


**Colorado**


**Delaware**


**Florida**


Lindeman, L. M. (n.d.). *The best they can be: 2013-2014 annual quality improvement report for out-of-school time programs in Palm Beach County*. Boynton Beach, FL: Prime Time Palm Beach County.


**Georgia**


**Illinois**


**Indiana**

Anderson, T., & Elicker, J. (n.d.). *Does Paths to QUALITY benefit Indiana’s child care providers? (Evaluation Brief No. 3)*. West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University, Center for Families.

Anderson, T., & Elicker, J. (n.d.). *Does Paths to QUALITY help Indiana parents find quality child care? (Evaluation Brief No. 4)*. West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University, Center for Families.
Anderson, T., & Elicker, J. (n.d.). *Does Paths to QUALITY produce quality care and education for Indiana’s young children? (Evaluation Brief No. 2)*. West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University, Center for Families.

Anderson, T., & Elicker, J. (n.d.). *Key findings. (Evaluation Report No. 1)*. West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University, Center for Families.


**Iowa**


(REL 2017-244). Washington, DC: Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest.


Kentucky


**Louisiana**

Maine


Maryland


Maryland. Governor. (2013). *Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge annual performance*


**Massachusetts**


Michigan


Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). Measures used in quality rating and


**Minnesota**


**Mississippi**


**Missouri**


**Nevada**


**New Jersey**


**New Mexico**


**New York**


North Carolina


Ohio

Brandon, R. N., & Stutman, T. J. (2009). *Potential improvements to Ohio’s Step Up to Quality program: Quality-based costs to providers, families, and funding agencies*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington, Human Services Policy Center.


**Oklahoma**


**Oregon**

Lipscomb, S. T., Weber, R., Green, B. L., & Patterson, L. (n.d.). *Oregon’s quality rating improvement system (QRIS) validation study one: Associations with observed program quality.* Corvallis, OR: Oregon Child Care Research Partnership.


**Pennsylvania**


**Rhode Island**


National Association for Regulatory Administration. (2008). *Recommendations to strengthen Rhode Island’s child care licensing regulations and compliance procedures to support a strong program quality rating system.* Providence, RI: Rhode Island Kids Count.


**Tennessee**


VT


**Virginia**


Washington


West Virginia


Wisconsin


**Multistate**

rating and improvement systems. *Child & Youth Care Forum*.


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