Quick Facts: Quality Rating Systems

**Statewide Implementation:**
- 14 States have implemented a statewide Quality Rating System (QRS)
- More than 25 States are exploring or designing a statewide QRS

**Common Elements of QRS:**
- Standards
- Accountability measures
- Program and practitioner outreach and support
- Financing incentives specifically linked to compliance with quality standards
- Parent/consumer education efforts

**Categories of Quality Standards:**
- Administrative policies and procedures
- Health and safety
- Learning environment/curriculum
- Licensing status/compliance
- Parent/family involvement
- Personnel/staffing
- Professional development/qualifications/training
- Program evaluation
- Program standards
- Ratios/group size
- Special needs
- Staff compensation

**Environment Rating Scales:**
- 12 of the 14 Statewide QRS are using an environment rating scale (ERS)
- Variations in using ERS with QRS:
  - Frequency of assessment
  - Percent/number of classrooms observed
  - How scores are used
    - Averaged
    - Required score for a particular quality level

**Tiered Reimbursement:**
- 30 States pay a higher child care subsidy reimbursement rate to child care programs that meet quality standards above licensing. Most give higher payments to nationally accredited programs.

**Evaluation:**
- In 4 States (North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee), evaluations of QRS have shown positive impacts on quality


*July 2007*
States and Communities Operating, Piloting, or Exploring or Designing a Quality Rating System

Source: Data compiled by the National Child Care Information Center as of July 2007.