

**Policy and Research Committee of the Board
MA Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Updates- 02/03/14**

EEC Program Quality Unit

EEC will see a transition of three of our Program Quality Specialists (Regions 1, 2 and 3) into licensor roles. Job postings for these three positions have been announced, along with a fourth Program Quality Specialist position. The additional Program Quality Specialist will assist with policy and resource development in the Boston office, as well as support a case load in Region 2. Transition of the PQS is timely, as the unit has recently completed a seven month process developing documentation verification protocols. Their knowledge and experience with QRIS will be an asset to the EEC licensing unit.

QRIS Working Group

The QRIS Working Group for Program Administrators and the QRIS Working Group for Educators have had three meetings to date. They have provided input and feedback on the recent changes to the Environment Rating Scales Policy, the QRIS Continuum, the Level 1 requirements for Public School programs, a recent QRIS field survey, development of an on-line QRIS Community, as well as several additional policies that are in development. This collaboration is proving to enrich the QRIS evaluation and revision process.

QRIS Professional Development Review Team

EEC has convened a separate working group to review QRIS Professional Development requirements. This team is made up of twenty members from the field, and represents CBSB, FCC and ASOST. Members include trainers, professors of higher education and a variety of program support staff, and all members have a background in early childhood professional development. The QRIS PD review team has been diligently working on the CBSB standards, and will begin work on the FCC and ASOST standards in February. This team is tasked with identifying training content, relevant staff required to take the trainings, length of trainings and credential of training (i.e. college credit, CEU, etc.) Their recommendations will provide clarity for the standard verification process as well as inform policy development.

Environment Rating Scales Implementation Plan

On January 14, 2014 the EEC Board voted to modify the way EEC interacts with the ERS tools. Three significant changes will be implemented; overall scores have changed slightly, item scores are no longer calculated and instead the subscale scores are considered, and the Reliable Rater classroom observations will be completed at Level 4 only. An implementation plan for incorporating the ERS policy changes has been developed. This plan has been vetted through the EEC Advisory Council and the EPS coaches and mentors. The QRIS Working Group will review the plan at their February meeting, followed by implementation of the plan in March.

QRIS Validation Study

A revised QRIS Validation Study design has been drafted and vetted with the QRIS Validation Study Advisory. Changes have been made to the Child Assessment Battery, the study sample, and the director and teacher interviews. These changes are in greater alignment with national trends and best practice. The revised design will be presented to the Policy and Research Committee in March for input and feedback.

QRIS Participation Data – December 2013*

- ◆ Approximately 5,700 programs/providers are participating in QRIS, representing half of our licensed programs. Additionally, we have 325 public school programs (license-exempt) also participating in QRIS.
- ◆ There was an increase of 9 programs participating in QRIS and an increase of 81 applications in December.
- ◆ 1,405 of these programs have been granted a Level 2 status, and 7 of these programs are rated a Level 3 pending the successful completion of a Program Quality Specialist visit.
- ◆ 703 of the programs participating are nationally accredited: 34 COA, 119 NAFCC and 550 NAEYC.
- ◆ QRIS Participation by region and program type:

QRIS Program Type	Western	Central	Northeast	South East/ Cape	Metro Boston
ASOST	128	116	221	215	160
Center	338	313	358	484	365
FCC	704	876	1546	544	916
Grand Total	1170	1305	2125	1243	1441

- ◆ Licensed capacity of programs participating in QRIS is 138,133 (as of October 2013):
 - FCC: 26,564
 - Small Group: 135
 - Infant: 4,781
 - Toddler: 7,960
 - Preschool: 44,737
 - Kindergarten: 610
 - School Age: 32,708
 - Infant Toddler Mixed: 5,561
 - Toddler/Preschool Mixed: 2,853
 - Preschool Mixed: 8,235
 - Kindergarten/School Aged Mixed: 3,989
- ◆ 139,090 children (full and part time) are enrolled in programs participating in QRIS (self-reported by program/provider). 44,037 of these children are on EEC Subsidies -contracted or voucher slots (as of October 2013):
 - Infants: 7,480
 - Toddlers: 19,082
 - Preschoolers: 67,414
 - Kindergarteners: 5,430
 - School Aged Children: 39,684

* Enrollment exceeds capacity because a full time slot may be utilized by more than one child on a part time basis. Fluctuations in enrollment, subsidy management and licensing capacity can change the data results.