

MA QRIS Interim Changes Guide

Based on recommendations from the QRIS validation study and feedback from the field, EEC is working to improve the current system prior to the implementation of StrongStart to Program Quality (the next generation of QRIS). These Interim Changes will simplify the application process, remove barriers, and help improve program quality. Please refer to the full standards for a comprehensive look at all of the MA QRIS requirements.

Center Based Early Education and Care Programs

The following are changes for Center Based Early Education and Care Programs:

- Remove the Level 3 requirement that educators receive training in Documenting Children's Progress because this is already required at Level 2.
- Remove Level 3 program administrator IPDP requirement, requiring that the program administrator has an IPDP that addresses their requirements needed for Level 4.
- Remove redundant IPDP requirements.

The following are changes for All QRIS Program Types that also apply to Center Based Programs:

- Include Professional Development Points (PDPs) to meet formal professional development requirements.
- Remove the requirement for training for all staff on specialized diets, allergies, and feeding issues.
- Remove the Level 3 health consultant visit requirement.
- Remove the required memoranda of understanding between educators and outside consultants and social services agencies.
- Remove the admissions policy requirement.
- Remove the requirement to submit an operating budget.
- Remove the requirement to share QRIS ratings.
- Beginning July 1, 2019, continue to specify the required number of CEUs per QRIS Level, but remove the requirement of specific training topics by QRIS Level.

What's Not Changing **YET**

This is not the next generation of QRIS - Yet!

EEC is in the process of developing StrongStart to Program Quality, a transformative change for program quality standards. These Interim Changes are NOT StrongStart to Program Quality. It is, however, EEC's hope that the Interim Changes will increase program participation right now, and bridge the current QRIS with the next generation.

When do the Interim Changes start?

Right Now!

The Interim Changes go into effect on April 1, 2019.

We suggest that you review the guidance documents to familiarize yourself with these changes as soon as possible. You can find resources in the QRIS Toolbox at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/quality-rating-and-improvement-system-qris-toolbox-for-programs>.

If you need additional assistance or have questions about submitting materials, please contact your Program Quality Specialist.

Submitting an Application

Complete your QRIS application on the QRIS Program Manager (QPM) here:

https://www.eec.state.ma.us/SSI_V2/ProfileSetup/LoginUN.aspx

The criteria in the QPM do not match the QRIS Interim Changes standards. Please use these instructions:

1. In the "Summary" section, click on the "Documents" tab and select "Add New"
2. Select "Other" from the "Document Type" drop-down menu
3. Select "Other" from the "Document" drop-down menu, and click save (only do this once)
4. For each standard, use "Other" as the associated document and check any box under "Measurement Method"

