MA QRIS Interim Changes Guide: Afterschool/Out-of-School Time Programs

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 to participation, and help improve program quality. Please refer to the full standards for a comprehensive look at all of the MA QRIS requirements.

Afterschool/Out-of-School Time Programs

Changes to the QRIS standards for Afterschool/Out-of-School Time Programs:

- Removed the redundant requirement that programs observe children and maintain progress notes for families.
- Removed the redundant requirement that programs provide homework assistance and offer individualized homework supports.
- Removed requirement that programs provide opportunities for families to meet with classroom educators at least once a month to allow programs flexibility in how they communicate with families.
- Removed the requirement that programs track and monitor absences, and contact families when children are absent more than 20% in a month.
- Removed the requirement that programs have an accounting review by a third party with accounting expertise.
- Removed redundant Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) requirements.

Changes to the QRIS standards for All Program Types including Afterschool/Out-of-School Time Programs:

- Professional Development Points (PDPs) will be accepted for meeting formal professional development requirements.
- Removed the requirement for training for all staff on specialized diets, allergies, and feeding issues.
- Removed the Level 3 health consultant visit requirement.
- Removed the required memorandum of understanding between educators and outside consultants and social services agencies.
- Removed the admissions policy requirement.
- Removed the requirement to submit an operating budget.
- Removed the requirement to share QRIS ratings.
- Removed the requirement of specific training topics by QRIS Level effective July 1, 2019.

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 went into effect on May 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”