MA QRIS Interim Changes Guide: Public School 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 the MA QRIS requirements.

Public School Early Education and Care Programs

Changes to the QRIS standards for Public School Early Education and Care Programs:

- Removed the Level 3 requirement that educators receive training in Documenting Children’s Progress (this is already required at Level 2).
- Removed the redundant requirement that the program administrator has a bachelor’s degree.
- Removed redundant requirement that educators have an Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) that reflects mentoring, coaching, supervision, and curriculum.
- Removed redundant requirement that programs communicate with the school/early intervention program, CFCE grantee, and mental health providers to coordinate services.
- Removed redundant requirement that programs have a system of technology for data collection and tracking.
- Removed redundant requirements for accounting review and outside audit.
- Removed redundant requirement to offer a benefits package for educators.
- Removed redundant requirement that programs have an incentive program to reward educators who advance through the career ladder.
- Removed redundant IPDP requirements.

Changes to the QRIS standards for All Program Types including Public School 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 administrations 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-qrис-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”