



All About QUALITYstarsNY

What is QUALITYstarsNY?

QUALITYstarsNY is New York State's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), a voluntary system for all types of regulated early childhood programs that serve children from birth through age five. The goal of QUALITYstarsNY is to provide children and families with access to excellent early learning opportunities in order to help children succeed in school and in life. To mitigate the achievement gap experienced among the most vulnerable families, we prioritize enrollment for schools serving high-need communities.

Research shows that children who attend high quality early learning programs do better in school and throughout life. Moreover, QUALITYstarsNY's model for supporting high quality programming has been proven effective. Continuous quality improvement is the core focus of QUALITYstarsNY. When schools join, they partner with a dedicated Quality Improvement Specialist (QI Specialist), a seasoned expert in early childhood education and administration who will advise them throughout their participation.

How it works

UPK programs are assessed and assigned a rating on a 5-Star scale based on a set of research-based quality indicators that examine everything from the learning environment to the qualifications and experiences of teaching staff and administrators. A rating of 4 or 5 Stars indicates an exceptional level of program quality. After earning their rating, schools review and reflect upon their rating results and work with their QI Specialist to build a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). The QIP establishes the specific areas for improvement and outlines the action steps, as well as resources needed, to accomplish their improvement goals.

Among 200 early childhood programs that have been rated multiple times in QUALITYstarsNY, 75 percent increased their star rating or sustained a high-quality rating of 4 or 5 Stars. Among programs rated 1 or 2 Stars, 60 percent increased their star rating, with one in four making significant progress to move up to a high-quality 4-Star rating.

QUALITYstarsNY supports schools with a full complement of resources, such as learning materials and furniture for the classroom and scholarships for staff to earn necessary degrees or credentials in early childhood education. Progress is ongoing, and schools are re-rated every 18 months to three years to earn a new rating. In this way, participating schools are able to embark on a path of continuous quality improvement and are supported in achieving their goals.

Next Steps

QUALITYstarsNY currently supports hundreds of programs/schools across all ten economic development regions of New York State, which combined serve nearly 50,000 children. We are currently expanding enrollment across the state to ensure more of New York's children and families have access to high-quality early learning opportunities. For more information, visit qualitystarsny.org or support@qualitystarsny.org.

