

Child Care & Early Education **RESEARCH CONNECTIONS**

<http://www.researchconnections.org>

Quality Rating and Improvement System State Evaluations and Research

A quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) is a method used by states and local jurisdictions to assess the level of quality of child care and early education programs, improve quality, and convey quality ratings to parents and other consumers. A typical QRIS incorporates the following components: quality standards for participating providers; a [system](#) for measuring and monitoring provider quality; resources for providers to support quality improvement; financial incentives for providers who meet quality standards; and education and outreach to families about the ratings and how to choose a quality program for their children.

In 2010, [Assessing States' Child Care Quality Rating Systems \(QRS\)](#), a project funded by the U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, produced a compendium that documented features of QRISs in 25 states that had them at the time. An [updated online version of the compendium](#) was released in 2014, which included information on 38 states with QRISs.

Many jurisdictions with QRISs, as well as other interested organizations and individuals, have undertaken research and evaluation efforts to improve their understanding of QRIS implementation, validity, results, and impacts. This **Topic of Interest** provides a comprehensive list of state QRIS evaluations and research in the *Research Connections* collection. If you know of state QRIS research and evaluation publications not included in this list, please let us know at contact@researchconnections.org.



<u>Arizona</u>	<u>Iowa</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>
<u>Arkansas</u>	<u>Kentucky</u>	<u>Nevada</u>	<u>Rhode Island</u>
<u>California</u>	<u>Louisiana</u>	<u>New Mexico</u>	<u>Tennessee</u>
<u>Colorado</u>	<u>Maine</u>	<u>New Jersey</u>	<u>Vermont</u>
<u>Delaware</u>	<u>Maryland</u>	<u>New York</u>	<u>Virginia</u>
<u>Florida</u>	<u>Massachusetts</u>	<u>North Carolina</u>	<u>Washington</u>
<u>Georgia</u>	<u>Michigan</u>	<u>Ohio</u>	<u>West Virginia</u>
<u>Illinois</u>	<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>Oklahoma</u>	<u>Wisconsin</u>
<u>Indiana</u>	<u>Mississippi</u>	<u>Oregon</u>	<u>Multistate</u>

Arizona

Epstein, D. J., Hegseth, D., Friese, S., Miranda, B., Gebhart, T., Partika, A., & Tout, K. (2017). [Quality First: Arizona's early learning quality improvement and rating system implementation and validation study](#). Chapel Hill, NC: Child Trends.

Tout, K., Magnuson, K. A., Lipscomb, S. T., Karoly, L. A., Starr, R., Quick, H., Early, D., & et al. (2017). [Validation of the quality ratings used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): A synthesis of state studies. \(OPRE Report No. 2017-92\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Arkansas

McKelvey, L., Chapin-Critz, M., Johnson, B., Bokony, P. A., Conners-Burrow, N. A., & Whiteside-Mansell, L. (2010). [Evaluating Arkansas' path to better child outcomes](#). Little Rock: Arkansas, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education.

California

American Institutes for Research., & Rand Corporation. (2013). [Local quality improvement efforts and outcomes descriptive study: Final report: A Governor's State Advisory Council on Early Learning and Care project](#). Sacramento: California, Child Development Division.

Bay Area Quality Early Learning Partnership. (2015). [Assessment in quality rating &](#)

[improvement systems](#). [Bay Area Counties], CA: Bay Area Quality Early Learning Partnership.

Bay Area Quality Early Learning Partnership. (2015). [Coaching in quality rating & improvement systems](#). [Bay Area Counties], CA: Bay Area Quality Early Learning Partnership.

Bay Area Quality Early Learning Partnership. (2015). [Early learning workforce development](#). [Bay Area Counties], CA: Bay Area Quality Early Learning Partnership.

Bay Area Quality Early Learning Partnership. (2015). [Development of a quality early learning system](#). [Bay Area Counties], CA: Bay Area Quality Early Learning Partnership.

Bay Area Quality Early Learning Partnership. (2015). [The Bay Area regional QRIS pilot](#). [Bay Area Counties], CA: Bay Area Quality Early Learning Partnership.

Bay Area Quality Early Learning Partnership. (2015). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: Achievements and lessons learned from regional QRIS implementation](#). [Bay Area Counties], CA: Bay Area Quality Early Learning Partnership.

California. Governor. (2017). [Early Learning Challenge: 2016 final performance report: California](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

California. Governor. (2016). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: California](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

California. Governor. (2015). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: California](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

California. Governor. (2013). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge annual performance report: California, 2012](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

California. Governor. (n.d.). [Annual Performance Report: California 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Crow, S., & Rock, L. (2016). [New kids on the block: Findings from the first year of California's State Preschool QRIS Block Grant](#). Berkeley, CA: Opportunity Institute.

Crow, S., & Rock, L. (2015). [California's local approach to raising quality in early childhood programs](#). Berkeley, CA: Opportunity Institute.

Harder + Company Community Research. (2016). [First 5 Alameda County QRIS evaluation](#). Alameda CA: First 5 Alameda County.

Hawkinson, L. E., Quick, H., Muenchow, S., Anthony, J., Weinberg, E., Holod, A., Parrish, D., & et

al. (2015). [Independent evaluation of California's Race to the Top--Early Learning Challenge quality rating and improvement system: Half-term report](#). Sacramento: California, Department of Education.

Karoly, L. A., & Zellman, G. L. (2012). [How would programs rate under California's proposed quality rating and improvement system?: Evidence from statewide and county data on early care and education program quality. \(DB-647-PF\)](#). Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation.

Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Esposito, A. M., Murphy, L., Shoji, M., Del Grosso, P., Kiambuthi, W., & et al. (2017). [Progress and challenges in developing tiered quality rating and improvement systems \(TQRIS\) in the Round 1 Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge \(RTT-ELC\) states. \(NCEE 2018-4003\)](#). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance.

Los Angeles County (Calif.). Office of Child Care. (2013). [Feasibility report on a countywide child care rating system](#). Los Angeles: Los Angeles County, Office of Child Care.

Quick, H., Hawkinson, L. E., Holod, A., Anthony, J., Muenchow, S., Parrish, D., Martin, A., & et al. (2016). [Independent evaluation of California's Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge quality rating and improvement system: Cumulative technical report](#). Sacramento, CA: California, Department of Education.

Soliday-Hong, S., Howes, C., Marcella, J., Zucker, E., & Huang, Y. (2015). [Quality Rating and Improvement Systems: Validation of a local implementation in LA County and children's school-readiness](#). *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 30(1), 227-240.

Tonyan, H. A., Nuttall, J., Torres, J., & Bridgewater, J. (2017). [Engaging with quality improvement initiatives: A descriptive study of learning in the complex and dynamic context of everyday life for family child care providers](#). *Early Education and Development*, 28(6), 684-704.

Tout, K., Magnuson, K. A., Lipscomb, S. T., Karoly, L. A., Starr, R., Quick, H., Early, D., & et al. (2017). [Validation of the quality ratings used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): A synthesis of state studies. \(OPRE Report No. 2017-92\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Wold and Associates. (2011). [Steps to Excellence Project: Pilot process evaluation](#). Los Angeles: Los Angeles County, Office of Child Care.

Wold and Associates. (2013). [Steps to Excellence Program \(STEP\): Evaluation report](#). Los Angeles: Los Angeles County, Office of Child Care.

Zellman, G. L., & Karoly, L. A. (2015). [Improving QRISs through the use of existing data: A virtual pilot of the California QRIS](#). *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 30(1), 241-254.

Zepeda, A. (2015). [Directors implement and reflect on a quality rating and improvement system \(QRIS\)](#). Los Angeles, CA: Los Angeles Universal Preschool.

Colorado

Colorado. Office of the Governor. (2017). [Early Learning Challenge: 2016 annual performance report: Colorado](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Colorado. Office of the Governor. (2016). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: Colorado](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Colorado. Office of the Governor. (2015). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: Colorado](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Colorado. Office of the Governor. (n.d.). [Annual Performance Report: Colorado 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Daily, S., Soli, M., Lin, V., Perkins, V., Bultinck, E., Cleveland, J., & Maxwell, K. (2017). [Colorado Shines validation study 2015-2017: Final report. \(Publication No. 2017-48\)](#). Bethesda, MD: Child Trends.

Karoly, L. A., Zellman, G. L., & Perlman, M. (2013). [Understanding variation in classroom quality within early childhood centers: Evidence from Colorado's quality rating and improvement system](#). *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 28(4), 645-657.

LaMonte, L., Lin, V., Soli, M., Daily, S., Cook, M., & Maxwell, K. (2017). [Colorado Shines quality rating and improvement system: Key stakeholder interview report](#). (Publication No. 2017-44). Bethesda, MD: Child Trends.

Le, V., Schaack, D., & Setodji, C. M. (2015). [Identifying baseline and ceiling thresholds within the Qualistar Early Learning Quality Rating and Improvement System](#). *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 30(1), 215-226.

Lin, V., & Daily, S. (2017). [Colorado Shines quality rating and improvement system: Level 1 provider survey report](#). (Publication No. 2017-45). Bethesda, MD: Child Trends.

Moodie, S., Daily, S., Bultinck, E., & Abrams, J. (2017). [Colorado Shines quality rating and improvement system: Professional Development Information System \(PDIS\) survey report](#). (Publication No. 2017-43). Bethesda, MD: Child Trends.

Moodie, S., LaMonte, L., Orfali, N., Daily, S., Soli, M., & Maxwell, K. (2017). [Colorado Shines quality rating and improvement system: Evidence review](#). (Publication No. 2017-43). Bethesda, MD: Child Trends.

Schaack, D. (2008). [Lessons learned from the Qualistar rating and improvement system Rand validation study](#). Denver, CO: Qualistar Early Learning.

Soli, M., Bultinck, E., & Daily, S. (2017). [Colorado Shines quality rating and improvement system: Coaching survey report](#). (Publication No. 2017-42). Bethesda, MD: Child Trends.

Soli, M., & Daily, S. (2017). [ECERS-3/ECERS-R comparability study \[Memorandum\]](#). Bethesda, MD: Child Trends.

Tarrant, K., & Huerta, L. A. (2015). [Substantive or symbolic stars: Quality rating and improvement systems through a new institutional lens](#). *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 30(1), 327-338.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies](#). (OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Zellman, G. L., & Perlman, M. (2008). [Child-care quality rating and improvement systems in five pioneer states: Implementation issues and lessons learned.](#) (MG-795-AECF/SPF/UWA). Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation.

Zellman, G. L., Perlman, M., Le, V., & Setodji, C. M. (2008). [Assessing the validity of the Qualistar Early Learning quality rating and improvement system as a tool for improving child-care quality.](#) (MG-650-QEL). Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation.

Delaware

Auger, A., Karoly, L. A., & Schwartz, H. L. (2015). [Evaluation of Delaware Stars for Early Success: Year 2 report.](#)(RR-1026-DOEL). Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation.

Delaware. Department of Education. Office of Early Care and Education. (2008). [Delaware Stars for Early Success: Phase I report-2007.](#) Dover: Delaware, Department of Education, Office of Early Care and Education.

Delaware. Office of the Governor. (2017). [Early Learning Challenge: 2016 final performance report: Delaware.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Delaware. Office of the Governor. (2016). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: Delaware.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Delaware. Office of the Governor. (2015). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: Delaware.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Delaware. Office of the Governor. (2013). [State of Delaware 2012 Early Learning Challenge: Year one annual performance report.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Delaware. Office of the Governor. (n.d.). [Annual Performance Report: Delaware 2013.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Hallam, R. A., Bargreen, K., Fouts, H. N., Lessard, L., & Skrobot, C. (2018). [The use of infant confinement equipment in community-based child care centers: An analysis of centers participating in a statewide quality rating and improvement system](#). *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, 22(5), 694-701.

Hallam, R. A., Hooper, A., Bargreen, K., Buell, M. J., & Han, M. (2017). [A two-state study of family child care engagement in quality rating and improvement systems: A mixed-methods analysis](#). *Early Education and Development*, 28(6), 669-683.

Karoly, L. A., Schwartz, H. L., Setodji, C., & Haas, A. C. (2016). [Evaluation of Delaware Stars for Early Success: Final report](#). Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation.

Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Esposito, A. M., Murphy, L., Shoji, M., Del Grosso, P., Kiambuthi, W., & et al. (2017). [Progress and challenges in developing tiered quality rating and improvement systems \(TQRIS\) in the Round 1 Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge \(RTT-ELC\) states. \(NCEE 2018-4003\)](#). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance.

Mitchell, A. W. (2013). [Modeling quality costs for Delaware Stars: Interim report on program costs of quality in centers](#). Unpublished manuscript.

Schwartz, H. L., Karoly, L. A., Le, V., Tamargo, J., & Setodji, C. M. (2014). [Evaluation of Delaware Stars for Early Success: Year 1 report. \(RR-606-DOEL\)](#). Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation.

Thornburg, K. R., & Means, K. M. (2013). [Delaware Stars: Views from participants](#). Dover: Delaware, Office of Early Learning.

Tout, K., Magnuson, K. A., Lipscomb, S. T., Karoly, L. A., Starr, R., Quick, H., Early, D., & et al. (2017). [Validation of the quality ratings used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): A synthesis of state studies. \(OPRE Report No. 2017-92\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress](#)

report. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). *Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

University of Delaware. Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood. (2008). *Delaware Stars for Early Success: "Good programs working to become great programs": 2008 report*. Newark, DE: University of Delaware, Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood.

Florida

Baker, S., Spielberger, J., Lockaby, T., & Guterman, K. (2010). *Enhancing quality in afterschool programs: Fifth-year report on a process evaluation of Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc.* Chicago, IL: University of Chicago, Chapin Hall Center for Children.

Caronongan, P., Kirby, G., Malone, L., & Boller, K. (2011). *The Child Care Quality Rating System (QRS) Assessment: Defining and measuring quality: An in-depth study of five child care quality rating and improvement systems. (OPRE Report 2011-29)*. Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Children's Forum. (n.d.). *Miami-Dade County Quality Counts workforce study: 2012 update*. Miami, FL: Children's Trust.

Children's Forum. (n.d.). *Miami-Dade County Quality Counts workforce study update: March 2013*. Miami, FL: Children's Trust.

Children's Forum. (n.d.). *Miami-Dade Quality Counts workforce study 2017*. Tallahassee, FL: Children's Forum.

Children's Forum. (2011). *Miami-Dade County Quality Counts workforce study*. Tallahassee, FL: Children's Forum.

Clements, M. A., & Kalifeh, P. (n.d.). *Miami-Dade Quality Counts workforce study: Early care and education research to practice brief 2015*. Tallahassee, FL: Children's Forum.

Clements, M. A., & Kalifeh, P. (n.d.). *Miami-Dade Quality Counts workforce study: Early care and education research to practice brief 2016*. Tallahassee, FL: Children's Forum.

Clements, M. A., Kalifeh, P., & Grass, S. (2014). *Miami-Dade Quality Counts workforce study: Early care and education: Research to practice brief*. Tallahassee, FL: Children's Forum.

Clements, M. A., Kalifeh, P., & Grass, S. (2014). [Miami-Dade Quality Counts Workforce Study update](#). Tallahassee, FL: Children's Forum.

Iruka, I. U., Yazejian, N., Hughes, C., Robertson, N., & Maxwell, K. (2010). [Report of Year 2 Quality Counts survey findings](#). Miami, FL: Children's Trust.

Iruka, I. U., Yazejian, N., & Maxwell, K. (2009). [Year 1 final report of stakeholder interviews: Evaluation of Quality Counts](#). Miami, FL: Children's Trust.

Iruka, I. U., Yazejian, N., & Maxwell, K. (2010). [Report of Year 1 Quality Counts survey findings](#). Miami, FL: Children's Trust.

Iruka, I. U., Yazejian, N., Maxwell, K., & Robertson, N. (2011). [Final report of stakeholder interviews: Evaluation of Quality Counts](#). Miami, FL: Children's Trust.

Kalifeh, P., Clements, M. A., & Esposito, B. (2013). [Florida's Gold Seal Quality Care policy study](#). Tallahassee, FL: Children's Forum.

Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Malone, L. M., & Boller, K. (2015). [What do quality rating levels mean?: Examining the implementation of QRIS ratings to inform validation](#). *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 30(1), 291-305.

Lindeman, L. M. (n.d.). [The best they can be: 2013-2014 annual quality improvement report for out-of-school time programs in Palm Beach County](#). Boynton Beach, FL: Prime Time Palm Beach County.

Ma, X., Shen, J., Lu, X., Brandi, K., Goodman, J., & Watson, G. (2013). [Can quality improvement system improve childcare site performance in school readiness?](#) *Alberta Journal of Educational Research*, 106(2), 146-156.

Malone, L., Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Tout, K., & Boller, K. (2011). [The Child Care Quality Rating System \(QRS\) Assessment: Measuring quality across three child care quality rating and improvement systems: Findings from secondary analyses](#). (OPRE Report 2011-30). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Mitchell, A. W., & Ghazvini, A. (2007). [Florida's Quality Rating System: A conceptual model for estimating cost assumptions, explanations and supporting data](#). Auburndale, FL: The Policy Group for Florida's Families and Children.

Naftzger, N., Hallberg, K., & Yang, T. (2014). [Exploring the relationship between afterschool program quality and youth outcomes: Findings from the Prime Time of Palm Beach County quality improvement system study: Summary](#). Washington, DC: American Institutes for Research.

- Rodgers, M., Leite, W., Hagler, N., Zhou, S., He, J., Qiu, Y., Glaser, L., & et al. (2017). [Early Learning Performance Funding Project: Year 3 evaluation 2016-2017 final report](#). Tallahassee, FL: Florida, Office of Early Learning.
- Shen, J., Tackett, W., & Ma, X. (2008). [First evaluation report for Palm Beach County Quality Improvement System](#). Boynton Beach, FL: Children's Services Council (Palm Beach County, Fla.).
- Shen, J., & Ma, X. (2013). [Quality rating and improvement system for early care and education: Development, implementation, evaluation and learning](#). New York: Peter Lang Publishing.
- Shen, J., Tackett, W., & Ma, X. (2009). [Second evaluation report for Palm Beach County Quality Improvement System](#). Boynton Beach, FL: Children's Services Council (Palm Beach County, Fla.).
- Spielberger, J., & Lockaby, T. (2006). [The Prime Time Initiative of Palm Beach County, Florida: QIS development process evaluation: Year 2 report](#). Chicago: University of Chicago, Chapin Hall Center for Children.
- Spielberger, J., & Lockaby, T. (2008). [Palm Beach County's Prime Time Initiative: Improving the quality of after-school programs](#). Chicago: University of Chicago, Chapin Hall Center for Children.
- Spielberger, J., Lockaby, T., Mayers, L., & Guterman, K. (2009). [Ready for prime time: Implementing a formal afterschool quality improvement system by Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc.](#) Chicago: University of Chicago, Chapin Hall Center for Children.
- Wehry, S. (2008). [Early Learning Coalition of Duval report: 2007-08 final report](#). Jacksonville, FL: Florida Institute of Education.
- Wehry, S. (2009). [Early Learning Coalition of Duval report: 2008-09](#). Jacksonville, FL: Florida Institute of Education.
- Wehry, S. (2010). [Early Learning Coalition of Duval report 2009-10](#). Jacksonville, FL: Early Learning Coalition of Duval.
- Wehry, S. (2011). [Early Learning Coalition of Duval report 2010-11](#). Jacksonville, FL: Early Learning Coalition of Duval.
- Wehry, S. (2011). [Early Learning Coalition of Duval report 2011-12](#). Jacksonville, FL: Early Learning Coalition of Duval.
- Yazejian, N., & Iruka, I. U. (2015). [Associations among tiered quality rating and improvement system supports and quality improvement](#). *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 30(1), 255-265.

Yazejian, N., Iruka, I. U., Hughes, C., & Maxwell, K. (2010). [Year 2 focus group summary: Evaluation of Quality Counts](#). Miami, FL: Children's Trust.

Yazejian, N., Iruka, I. U., Maxwell, K., Bessell, A. G., Kloosterman, V. I., Heiblum, L., & Gutierrez, S. M. (2009). [Year 1 focus group summary: Evaluation of Quality Counts](#). Miami, FL: Children's Trust.

Yazejian, N., Iruka, I. U., Maxwell, K., & Robertson, N. (2012). [Evaluation of Miami-Dade County's Quality Counts initiative: Final report: 2008-2012](#). Miami, FL: Children's Trust.

Georgia

Burchinal, M., Soliday-Hong, S., Sabol, T. J., Forestieri, N., Peisner-Feinberg, E. S., Tarullo, L. B., & Zaslow, M. (2016). [Quality rating and improvement systems: Secondary data analyses of psychometric properties of scale development](#). (OPRE Report 2016-26). Washington DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Early, D., Maxwell, K., Orfali, N., & Li, W. (2017). [Quality Rated validation study report #1: What makes up a Quality Rated star rating? An in-depth look at the criteria, standards, and components](#). (Publication No. 2017-27). Chapel Hill, NC: Child Trends.

Georgia. Office of the Governor. (2017). [Early Learning Challenge: 2016 annual performance report: Georgia](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Georgia. Office of the Governor. (2016). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: Georgia](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Georgia. Office of the Governor. (2015). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: Georgia](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Orfali, N., Early, D., & Maxwell, K. (2018). [Quality Rated validation study report #2: A further look at the programs in Quality Rated](#). (Publication No. 2018-06). Chapel Hill, NC: Child Trends.

Sotolongo, J., Gebhart, T., Early, D., & Maxwell, K. (2017). [Voices from the field: Providers' experiences with implementing DECAL's Quality Rated Subsidy Grant Pilot Program](#). Chapel Hill, NC: Child Trends.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies](#). (OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Illinois

Caronongan, P., Kirby, G., Malone, L., & Boller, K. (2011). [The Child Care Quality Rating System \(QRS\) Assessment: Defining and measuring quality: An in-depth study of five child care quality rating and improvement systems. \(OPRE Report 2011-29\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Faria, A., Greenberg, A., Hawkinson, L. E., & Metzger, I. (2016). [Development and implementation of quality rating and improvement systems in Midwest Region states. \(REL 2016-143\)](#). Washington, DC: Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest.

Illinois. Office of the Governor. (2017). [Early Learning Challenge: 2016 annual performance report: Illinois](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Illinois. Office of the Governor. (2016). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: Illinois](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Illinois. Office of the Governor. (2015). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: Illinois](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Illinois. Office of the Governor. (n.d.). [Annual Performance Report: Illinois 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Kelton, R., Talan, T., & Bloom, P. (2013). [Alternative pathways in family child care quality rating and improvement systems](#). *Early Childhood Research & Practice*, 15(2).

Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Malone, L. M., & Boller, K. (2015). [What do quality rating levels mean?: Examining the implementation of QRIS ratings to inform validation.](#) *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 30(1), 291-305.

Malone, L., Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Tout, K., & Boller, K. (2011). [The Child Care Quality Rating System \(QRS\) Assessment: Measuring quality across three child care quality rating and improvement systems: Findings from secondary analyses.](#) (OPRE Report 2011-30). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

National-Louis University. McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership. (2013). [Accreditation as an alternative pathway to quality in QRIS.](#) Wheeling, IL: National-Louis University, McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies.](#) (OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Yazejian, N., Burchinal, M., Soliday-Hong, S., & Howard, E. C. (2017). [ExceleRate Illinois: Validation study report.](#) Chapel Hill, NC: FPG Child Development Institute.

Indiana

Anderson, T., & Elicker, J. (n.d.). [Does Paths to QUALITY benefit Indiana's child care providers?](#) (Evaluation Brief No. 3). West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University, Center for Families.

Anderson, T., & Elicker, J. (n.d.). [Does Paths to QUALITY help Indiana parents find quality child care?](#) (Evaluation Brief No. 4). West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University, Center for Families.

Anderson, T., & Elicker, J. (n.d.). [Does Paths to QUALITY produce quality care and education for Indiana's young children? \(Evaluation Brief No. 2\)](#). West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University, Center for Families.

Anderson, T., & Elicker, J. (n.d.). [Key findings. \(Evaluation Report No. 1\)](#). West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University, Center for Families.

Caronongan, P., Kirby, G., Malone, L., & Boller, K. (2011). [The Child Care Quality Rating System \(QRS\) Assessment: Defining and measuring quality: An in-depth study of five child care quality rating and improvement systems. \(OPRE Report 2011-29\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Dechausay, N., & Anzelone, C. (2016). [Cutting through complexity: Using behavioral science to improve Indiana's child care subsidy program. \(OPRE Report 2016-03\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Elicker, J., Clawson, C., Ruprecht, K., & Kwon, K. (2007). [Paths to QUALITY: A child care quality rating system for Indiana: What is its scientific basis?](#) West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University, Center for Families.

Elicker, J., Langill, C., Ruprecht, K., Lewsader, J., & Anderson, T. (2011). [Evaluation of "Paths to QUALITY," Indiana's child care quality rating and improvement system: Final report. \(Technical Report No. 3\)](#). West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University, Department of Child Development and Family Studies.

Elicker, J., Ruprecht, K., Langill, C., Lewsader, J., Anderson, T., & Brizzi, M. (2013). [Indiana Paths to QUALITY: Collaborative evaluation of a new child care quality rating and improvement system. Early Education and Development, 24\(1\), 42-62.](#)

Faria, A., Greenberg, A., Hawkinson, L. E., & Metzger, I. (2016). [Development and implementation of quality rating and improvement systems in Midwest Region states. \(REL 2016-143\)](#). Washington, DC: Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest.

Kirby, G., Boller, K., & Zaveri, H. (2011). [The Child Care Quality Rating System \(QRS\) Assessment: Child care quality rating and improvement systems: Approaches to integrating programs for young children in two states. \(OPRE Report 2011-28\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Malone, L. M., & Boller, K. (2015). [What do quality rating levels mean?: Examining the implementation of QRIS ratings to inform validation. Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 30\(1\), 291-305.](#)

Lahti, M., Elicker, J., Zellman, G. L., & Fiene, R. (2015). [Approaches to validating child care quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): Results from two states with similar QRIS type designs.](#) *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 30(1), 280-290.

Lahti, M., Sabol, T., Starr, R., Langill, C., & Tout, K. (2013). [Validation of quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): Examples from four states. \(Research-to-Policy, Research-to-Practice Brief OPRE 2013-036\).](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Langill, C., Elicker, J., & Ruprecht, K. (2013). [Paths to QUALITY evaluation technical manual: Phase 2 evaluation methods and measures. \(Technical Report No. 5\).](#) West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University, Center for Families.

Langill, C., Elicker, J., Ruprecht, K., Kwon, K., & Guenin, J. (2009). [Paths to QUALITY: A child care quality rating & improvement system for Indiana: Evaluation methods and measures.](#) West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University, Center for Families.

Lewsader, J., & Elicker, J. (2013). [Church sponsored child care: Association of regulatory level with quality.](#) *International Journal of Child Care and Education Policy*, 7(2), 67-88.

Ruprecht, K., Langill, C., Elicker, J., & Anderson, T. (2013). [Paths to QUALITY: Child care provider focus group report: Summary of findings from PTQ licensed child care center directors, registered ministry directors, and family child care providers. \(Technical Report No. 4\).](#) West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University, Center for Families.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\).](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Iowa

Faria, A., Greenberg, A., Hawkinson, L. E., & Metzger, I. (2016). [Development and implementation of quality rating and improvement systems in Midwest Region states. \(REL 2016-143\).](#) Washington, DC: Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest.

Faria, A., Hawkinson, L. E., Metzger, I., Bouacha, N., & Cantave, M. (2017). [The "I" in QRIS Survey: Collecting data on quality improvement activities for early childhood education programs. \(REL 2017-221\).](#) Washington, DC: Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest.

Hawkinson, L. E., Faria, A., Bouacha, N., Lee, D., & Metzger, I. (2017). [Quality improvement efforts among early childhood education programs participating in Iowa's quality rating system.](#)

[\(REL 2017-244\)](#). Washington, DC: Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest.

Maxwell, K., Daily, S., & Graham, P. (2013). [Iowa Quality Rating System evaluation: Key concepts, psychometric properties, and the rating process](#). Des Moines: Iowa, Department of Human Services.

Kentucky

Daily, S., Moodie, S., Isner, T. K., Rothenberg, L., & Soli, M. (2012). [Kentucky STARS for KIDS NOW process evaluation: Collaboration and coordination in the Kentucky STARS for KIDS NOW technical assistance system. \(Evaluation Brief No. 5\)](#). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

Daily, S., Moodie, S., Isner, T. K., Rothenberg, L., & Soli, M. (2012). [Kentucky STARS for KIDS NOW process evaluation: Technical assistance provided to and received by STARS for KIDS NOW programs. \(Evaluation Brief No. 4\)](#). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

Hallam, R. A., Hooper, A., Bargreen, K., Buell, M. J., & Han, M. (2017). [A two-state study of family child care engagement in quality rating and improvement systems: A mixed-methods analysis](#). *Early Education and Development*, 28(6), 669-683.

Isner, T. K., Soli, M., Rothenberg, L., Moodie, S., & Tout, K. (2012). [Kentucky STARS for KIDS NOW process evaluation: Alternative rating structures for Kentucky STARS for KIDS NOW. \(Evaluation Brief No. 6\)](#). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

Isner, T. K., Tout, K., Daily, S., Moodie, S., Rothenberg, L., & Soli, M. (2012). [Kentucky STARS for KIDS NOW process evaluation: Overview of methods. \(Evaluation Brief No. 2\)](#). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

Kentucky. Department of Education. (2006). [Kids Now evaluation project executive summary 2006](#). Frankfort, KY: Kentucky, Department of Education.

Kentucky. Office of the Governor. (2017). [Early Learning Challenge: 2016 annual performance report: Kentucky](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Kentucky. Office of the Governor. (2016). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: Kentucky](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Kentucky. Office of the Governor. (2015). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: Kentucky](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Moodie, S., Isner, T. K., Rothenberg, L., & Soli, M. (2012). [Kentucky STARS for KIDS NOW process evaluation: Providers' perceptions of the Kentucky STARS for KIDS NOW rating process. \(Evaluation Brief No. 3\)](#). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

Rous, B., Howard, M., Nash, J., Irvin, D., Rojas, J., Luo, Y., & Singleton, P. (2016). [Kentucky tiered quality rating and improvement system pilot study](#). Lexington: University of Kentucky, Human Development Institute.

Starr, R., Moodie, S., Rothenberg, L., Isner, T. K., & Tout, K. (2012). [Kentucky STARS for KIDS NOW process evaluation: Evaluation of Kentucky's child care resource & referral system. \(Evaluation Brief No. 7\)](#). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

Starr, R., Tout, K., Albertson-Junkans, L., Moodie, S., Rothenberg, L., & Soli, M. (2012). [Kentucky STARS for KIDS NOW process evaluation: Findings from the Kentucky Early Care and Education and School-Age Care Household Survey. \(Evaluation Brief No. 8\)](#). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Isner, T. K., Daily, S., Moodie, S., Rothenberg, L., & Soli, M. (2012). [Kentucky STARS for KIDS NOW process evaluation: Executive summary. \(Evaluation Brief No. 1\)](#). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Louisiana

Bronfin, M., Connors-Tadros, L., Daily, S., Rahim, M., & Cope, H. (2018). [CLASS matters: Increasing quality in Louisiana early childhood programs: Findings from data analysis, stakeholder interviews, and national research](#). New Orleans, LA: Policy Institute for Children (Louisiana).

Maine

Lahti, M., Cobo-Lewis, A. B., Dean, A., Rawlings, S., Sawyer, E., & Zollitsch, B. (2011). [Maine's Quality for ME -- child care quality rating and improvement system \(QRIS\): Final evaluation report](#). Portland, ME: Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service

Lahti, M., Cobo-Lewis, A. B., Dean, A., Rawlings, S., Sawyer, E., & Zollitsch, B. (2011). [Maine's Quality for ME -- child care quality rating and improvement system \(QRIS\): Final evaluation report appendix](#). Portland, ME: Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service.

Lahti, M., Elicker, J., Zellman, G. L., & Fiene, R. (2015). [Approaches to validating child care quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): Results from two states with similar QRIS type designs](#). *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 30(1), 280-290.

Lahti, M., Sabol, T., Starr, R., Langill, C., & Tout, K. (2013). [Validation of quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): Examples from four states. \(Research-to-Policy, Research-to-Practice Brief OPRE 2013-036\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Vishneau, M. A., Cobo-Lewis, A. B., Howard, S., Labas, L., Armstrong, P., Downs, J., Meagher, T., & et al. (2015). [Quality for ME Revision Project: Final report](#). Orono: University of Maine, Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies.

Maryland

Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Esposito, A. M., Murphy, L., Shoji, M., Del Grosso, P., Kiambuthi, W., & et al. (2017). [Progress and challenges in developing tiered quality rating and improvement systems \(TQRIS\) in the Round 1 Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge \(RTT-ELC\) states. \(NCEE 2018-4003\)](#). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance.

Maryland. Governor. (2017). [Early Learning Challenge: 2016 final performance report: Maryland](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Maryland. Governor. (2016). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: Maryland](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Maryland. Governor. (2015). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: Maryland](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Maryland. Governor. (2013). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge annual performance](#)

[report: Maryland 2012](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Maryland. Governor. (n.d.). [Annual Performance Report: Maryland 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Swanson, C., Carran, D., Guttman, A., Wright, T., Murray, M., Alexander, C., & Nunn, J. (2017). [Maryland EXCELS validation study: January 1, 2014 - June 30, 2016](#). Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University.

Tout, K., Magnuson, K. A., Lipscomb, S. T., Karoly, L. A., Starr, R., Quick, H., Early, D., & et al. (2017). [Validation of the quality ratings used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): A synthesis of state studies. \(OPRE Report No. 2017-92\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Massachusetts

Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Esposito, A. M., Murphy, L., Shoji, M., Del Grosso, P., Kiambuthi, W., & et al. (2017). [Progress and challenges in developing tiered quality rating and improvement systems \(TQRIS\) in the Round 1 Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge \(RTT-ELC\) states. \(NCEE 2018-4003\)](#). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance.

Massachusetts. Governor. (2017). [Early Learning Challenge: 2016 final performance report: Massachusetts](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Massachusetts. Governor. (2016). [*Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: Massachusetts*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Massachusetts. Governor. (2015). [*Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: Massachusetts*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Massachusetts. Governor. (2013). [*Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge annual performance report: Massachusetts 2012*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Massachusetts. Governor. (n.d.). [*Annual Performance Report: Massachusetts 2013*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Schilder, D., Canada, D., Paulk, S., & Smith Leavell, A. (2012). [*Review of research on QRIS standards: Final report*](#). Boston: Massachusetts, Department of Early Education and Care.

Schilder, D., Young, J., Anastasopolous, L., Kimura, S., & Rivera, B. (2011). [*Massachusetts' Quality Rating and Improvement System \(QRIS\) Provisional Standards Study: Final report*](#). Boston: Massachusetts, Department of Early Education and Care.

Schilder, D., Young, J., Kimura, S., & Silvi, C. (2010). [*Massachusetts' quality rating and improvement system \(QRIS\) pilot: Final evaluation report*](#). Boston: Massachusetts, Department of Early Education and Care.

Tout, K., Magnuson, K. A., Lipscomb, S. T., Karoly, L. A., Starr, R., Quick, H., Early, D., & et al. (2017). [*Validation of the quality ratings used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): A synthesis of state studies. \(OPRE Report No. 2017-92\)*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [*Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\)*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [*2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [*At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human

Services. (2014). [*Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013.*](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Wellesley Centers for Women., & Donahue Institute. Applied Research & Program Evaluation. (n.d.). [*Massachusetts Quality Rating and Improvement System \(QRIS\) validation study: Final report.*](#) Boston, MA: Massachusetts, Department of Early Education and Care.

Michigan

Early Childhood Investment Corporation. (2016). [*School age pilot of Great Start to Quality summary and next steps.*](#) Lansing, MI: Early Childhood Investment Corporation.

Early Childhood Investment Corporation. (2017). [*Out-of-school time design FY 2017 pilot report.*](#) Lansing, MI: Early Childhood Investment Corporation.

Faria, A., Greenberg, A., Hawkinson, L. E., & Metzger, I. (2016). [*Development and implementation of quality rating and improvement systems in Midwest Region states.*](#) (REL 2016-143). Washington, DC: Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest.

Faria, A., Hawkinson, L. E., Greenberg, A., Howard, E., & Brown, L. (2015). [*Examining changes to Michigan's early childhood quality rating and improvement system \(QRIS\).*](#) (REL 2015-029). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest.

Michigan. Governor. (2017). [*Early Learning Challenge: 2016 annual performance report: Michigan.*](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Michigan. Governor. (2016). [*Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: Michigan.*](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Michigan. Governor. (2015). [*Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: Michigan.*](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Singer, J., & Hutson, M. (2014). [*Current quality improvement efforts for school age programs in Michigan.*](#) Chicago, IL: American Institutes for Research.

Singer, J., & Hutson, M. (2014). [*Recommendations for a school age design of Great Start to Quality.*](#) Chicago, IL: American Institutes for Research.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [*Measures used in quality rating and*](#)

[improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\).](#)

Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Minnesota

Chase, R. A., & Gilbertson, L. (2013). [Keys to successfully implementing Early Learning Scholarships in combination with Parent Aware.](#) St. Paul, MN: Wilder Research Center.

Child Trends. (2013). [Provider perceptions of Parent Aware.](#) Minneapolis, MN: Parent Aware for School Readiness.

Child Trends. (2014). [Provider perceptions of Parent Aware.](#) Minneapolis, MN: Parent Aware for School Readiness.

Cleveland, J., Bultinck, E., & Tout, K. (2016). [Provider perceptions of Parent Aware: Minnesota's quality rating and improvement system: Reporting period May 2015 - July 2015.](#) Minneapolis, MN: Child Trends.

Cleveland, J., Li, W., Orfali, N., & Tout, K. (2016). [Statewide expansion of Parent Aware ratings: Year 4 report: Reporting period: January - December 2015.](#) Minneapolis, MN: Child Trends..

Cleveland, J., Starr, R., Friese, S., Sosinsky, L., Li, W., Beckett, A., & Tout, K. (2015). [Statewide expansion of Parent Aware ratings: Year 3 report: Reporting period January - December 2014.](#) Minneapolis, MN: Child Trends.

Faria, A., Greenberg, A., Hawkinson, L. E., & Metzger, I. (2016). [Development and implementation of quality rating and improvement systems in Midwest Region states. \(REL 2016-143\).](#) Washington, DC: Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest.

- Gaylor, E., Spiker, D., Williamson, C., & Ferguson, K. (2011). [*Saint Paul Early Childhood Scholarship Program evaluation: Final evaluation report: 2008-2011*](#). Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota Early Learning Foundation.
- Isner, T. K., Albertson-Junkans, L., Quinn, K., Soli, M., Cleveland, J., & Tout, K. (2012). [*Getting Ready: Final evaluation report*](#). Minneapolis, MN: Child Trends.
- Isner, T. K., Blasberg, A., Tout, K., Carlin, C., Davis, E. E., & Forry, N. D. (2011). [*Minnesota Child Care Choices: Families' awareness and use of a pilot quality rating and improvement system*](#). Minneapolis, MN: Child Trends.
- Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Esposito, A. M., Murphy, L., Shoji, M., Del Grosso, P., Kiambuthi, W., & et al. (2017). [*Progress and challenges in developing tiered quality rating and improvement systems \(TQRIS\) in the Round 1 Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge \(RTT-ELC\) states. \(NCEE 2018-4003\)*](#). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance.
- Lahti, M., Sabol, T., Starr, R., Langill, C., & Tout, K. (2013). [*Validation of quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): Examples from four states. \(Research-to-Policy, Research-to-Practice Brief OPRE 2013-036\)*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.
- Minnesota Early Learning Foundation. (2008). [*Evaluation of Parent Aware: Minnesota's quality rating system pilot: Year 1 evaluation report*](#). St. Paul: Minnesota Early Learning Foundation.
- Minnesota Early Learning Foundation. (2009). [*Evaluation of the Saint Paul Early Childhood Scholarship Program: Issue brief 2: Implementation in year 2*](#). Saint Paul, MN: Minnesota Early Learning Foundation.
- Minnesota Early Learning Foundation. (2009). [*Saint Paul Early Childhood Scholarship Program evaluation: Annual report*](#). St. Paul: Minnesota Early Learning Foundation.
- Minnesota Early Learning Foundation. (2010). [*Evaluation of the Saint Paul Early Childhood Scholarship Program: Issue brief 3: Summary of implementation \(year 3\)*](#). Saint Paul, MN: Minnesota Early Childhood Foundation.
- Minnesota Early Learning Foundation. (2010). [*Saint Paul Early Childhood Scholarship Program evaluation: Annual report: Year 2*](#). Saint Paul, MN: Minnesota Early Learning Foundation.
- Minnesota Early Learning Foundation. (2011). [*Saint Paul Early Childhood Scholarship Program evaluation: Annual report: Year 3*](#). Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota Early Learning Foundation.

Minnesota. Department of Human Services. (2015). [*The Parent Aware quality rating and improvement system: Increasing accessibility for families and early care and education programs. \(DHS-7066-ENG\)*](#). St. Paul: Minnesota, Department of Human Services.

Minnesota. Department of Human Services. (2015). [*Participation in Parent Aware Ratings across Minnesota. \(DHS-7086-ENG\)*](#). St. Paul: Minnesota, Department of Human Services.

Minnesota. Office of the Governor. (2017). [*Early Learning Challenge: 2016 final performance report: Minnesota*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Minnesota. Office of the Governor. (2016). [*Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: Minnesota*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Minnesota. Office of the Governor. (2015). [*Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: Minnesota*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Minnesota. Office of the Governor. (2013). [*Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge annual performance report: Minnesota 2012*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Minnesota. Office of the Governor. (n.d.). [*Annual Performance Report: Minnesota 2013*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Mitchell, A. W., & Stoney, L. (2009). [*Minnesota QRIS scaling options*](#). St. Paul: Minnesota, Legislature, House of Representatives.

Tout, K., Cleveland, J., Friese, S., Sosinsky, L., Soli, M., & Hirilall, A. (2014). [*State expansion of Parent Aware: Year 2 annual report: Reporting period January-December 2013*](#). Minneapolis, MN: Parent Aware for School Readiness.

Tout, K., Cleveland, J., Li, W., Starr, R., Soli, M., & Bultinck, E. (2016). [*Parent Aware: Minnesota's quality rating and improvement system: Initial validation report*](#). Minneapolis, MN: Child Trends.

Tout, K., Magnuson, K. A., Lipscomb, S. T., Karoly, L. A., Starr, R., Quick, H., Early, D., & et al. (2017). [*Validation of the quality ratings used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): A synthesis of state studies. \(OPRE Report No. 2017-92\)*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Cleveland, J., Friese, S., Soli, M., & Albertson-Junkans, L. (2012). [*State expansion of Parent Aware: Year 1 implementation report*](#). Minneapolis, MN: Parent Aware for School Readiness.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Isner, T. K., Cleveland, J., Albertson-Junkans, L., Soli, M., & Quinn, K. (2011). [Evaluation of Parent Aware: Minnesota's quality rating and improvement system pilot: Final evaluation report](#). Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota Early Learning Foundation.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Isner, T. K., Cleveland, J., Soli, M., & Quinn, K. (2010). [Evaluation of Parent Aware: Minnesota's quality rating and improvement system pilot: Year 2 evaluation report](#). Saint Paul, MN: Minnesota Early Learning Foundation.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Isner, T. K., Cleveland, J., Soli, M., & Quinn, K. (2010). [Evaluation of Parent Aware: Minnesota's quality rating and improvement system pilot: Year 3](#). Saint Paul, MN: Minnesota Early Learning Foundation.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Mississippi

De Marco, A., Yazejian, N., & Morgan, J. (2015). [Evaluation of Mississippi child care Quality Stars program: Final report](#). Jackson: Mississippi, Division of Early Childhood Care & Development.

Fletcher, B. W., Billingsley, G., Fletcher, A., Lott, L., & Cannon, C. (2008). [Mississippi child care quality impact study](#). Biloxi, MS: Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative.

Javorsky, K., Pittman, C., Risman, K. L., & Sergi, K. (2015). [Getting fresh perspective on quality rating & improvement systems: Listening sessions with Mississippi's licensed childcare providers](#). Starkville: Mississippi State University, National Strategic Planning & Analysis Research Center.

Missouri

Mid-America Regional Council. Metropolitan Council on Early Learning. (2005). [Quality rating system: Preliminary findings: August 2005](#). Kansas City, MO: Mid-America Regional Council.

Thornburg, K. R., Mayfield, W. A., Hawks, J. S., & Fuger, K. (2009). [The Missouri quality rating system school readiness study](#). Columbia, MO: University of Missouri--Columbia, Center for Family Policy and Research.

Nevada

Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy. (2010). [Silver State Stars: Quality Rating Improvement System Pilot Project: Year one evaluation report](#). Las Vegas, NV: Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy.

Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy. (2011). [Silver State Stars: Quality Rating Improvement System Pilot Project: Final evaluation report](#). Las Vegas, NV: Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy.

Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy. (2012). [Silver State Stars: Quality Rating Improvement System Pilot Project: Year three final evaluation report](#). Las Vegas, NV: Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy.

Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy. (2013). [Silver State Stars: Quality Rating Improvement System Project: Year 4 final evaluation report](#). Las Vegas, NV: Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy.

Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy. (n.d.). [Silver State Stars: Quality rating improvement system project: Year five report](#). Las Vegas: Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy.

Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy. (n.d.). [Silver State Stars: Quality rating improvement system project: Year six report](#). Las Vegas, NV: Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy.

Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy. (n.d.). [Silver State Stars: Quality rating improvement system project: Year seven report](#). Las Vegas, NV: Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy.

Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy. (n.d.). [Silver State Stars: Quality rating improvement system project: Year eight report](#). Las Vegas, NV: Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\).](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

New Jersey

New Jersey. Office of the Governor. (2017). [Early Learning Challenge: 2016 annual performance report: New Jersey.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey. Office of the Governor. (2016). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: New Jersey.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey. Office of the Governor. (2015). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: New Jersey.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\).](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

New Mexico

Krause, K. (2009). [The cost of quality standards in the CYFD quality rating system.](#) Santa Fe: New Mexico, Children, Youth, and Families Department.

New Mexico. Office of the Governor. (2017). [Early Learning Challenge: 2016 annual performance report: New Mexico](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

New York

New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute. (2016). [New York State's bold step to ensure access to excellence in early childhood education: A report on the first three years](#). Brooklyn, NY: New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute.

Ozdogru, A. A. (2012). [QUALITYstarsNY Readiness Project evaluation report](#). Albany, NY: Early Care & Learning Council.

Peters, H., Bristow, B., Lim, Y., Skinner, P., Tallarico, B., McCoy, J., Meckler, D., & et al. (2005). [Child care quality and consumer education: Final report: September 2000-September 2004](#). Ithaca, NY: Cornell University.

Stephens, S. A., Kreader, J., Smith, S., & McCabe, L. A. (2011). [QUALITYstarsNY: Field test evaluation report](#). New York: New York City Early Childhood Professional Development Institute.

Widrick, R. M. (2012). [QUALITYstarsNY Recruitment Project evaluation report](#). Albany, NY: Early Care & Learning Council.

North Carolina

Bassok, D., Dee, T., & Latham, S. (2017). [*The effects of accountability incentives in early childhood education. \(CEPA Working Paper No. 17-10\)*](#). Stanford, CA: Stanford University, Center for Education Policy Analysis.

Bassok, D., Dee, T., & Latham, S. (2017). [*The effects of accountability incentives in early childhood education. \(NBER Working Paper No. 23859\)*](#). Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.

Burchinal, M., Soliday-Hong, S., Sabol, T. J., Forestieri, N., Peisner-Feinberg, E. S., Tarullo, L. B., & Zaslow, M. (2016). [*Quality rating and improvement systems: Secondary data analyses of psychometric properties of scale development. \(OPRE Report 2016-26\)*](#). Washington DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Cassidy, D. J., Hestenes, L. L., Mims, S., & Hestenes, S. (2003). [*North Carolina Rated License Assessment Project: An executive summary 1999-2002*](#). Greensboro, NC: University of North Carolina at Greensboro, North Carolina Rated License Assessment Project.

Cassidy, D. J., Hestenes, S., Hestenes, L. L., & Mims, S. (2005). [*The North Carolina Rated License Assessment Project: Executive summary*](#). Greensboro: University of North Carolina at Greensboro, North Carolina Rated License Assessment Project.

Hatfield, B. E., Lower, J. K., Cassidy, D. J., & Faldowski, R. A. (2015). [*Inequities in access to quality early care and education: Associations with funding and community context. Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 30\(1\), 316-326.*](#)

Hestenes, L. L., Kintner-Duffy, V. L., Wang, Y., La Paro, K. M., Mims, S., Crosby, D. A., Scott-Little, C., & et al. (2015). [*Comparisons among quality measures in child care settings: Understanding the use of multiple measures in North Carolina's QRIS and their links to social-emotional development in preschool children. Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 30\(1\), 199-214.*](#)

Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Esposito, A. M., Murphy, L., Shoji, M., Del Grosso, P., Kiambuthi, W., & et al. (2017). [*Progress and challenges in developing tiered quality rating and improvement systems \(TQRIS\) in the Round 1 Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge \(RTT-ELC\) states. \(NCEE 2018-4003\)*](#). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance.

North Carolina. Office of the Governor. (2017). [*Early Learning Challenge: 2016 final performance report: North Carolina*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

North Carolina. Office of the Governor. (2016). [*Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: North Carolina*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

North Carolina. Office of the Governor. (2015). [*Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: North Carolina*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

North Carolina. Office of the Governor. (2013). [*Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge annual performance report: North Carolina year 1: 2012*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

North Carolina. Office of the Governor. (n.d.). [*Annual Performance Report: North Carolina 2013*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [*Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\)*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [*2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [*At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [*Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Zellman, G. L., & Perlman, M. (2008). [*Child-care quality rating and improvement systems in five pioneer states: Implementation issues and lessons learned. \(MG-795-AECF/SPF/UWA\)*](#). Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation.

Ohio

Brandon, R. N., & Stutman, T. J. (2009). [*Potential improvements to Ohio's Step Up to Quality program: Quality-based costs to providers, families, and funding agencies*](#). Seattle, WA: University of Washington, Human Services Policy Center.

Compass Evaluation and Research, Inc.. (2017). [*Ohio's SUTQ: Validation study results*](#). Durham, NC: Compass Evaluation and Research, Inc.

Faria, A., Greenberg, A., Hawkinson, L. E., & Metzger, I. (2016). [Development and implementation of quality rating and improvement systems in Midwest Region states. \(REL 2016-143\)](#). Washington, DC: Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest.

Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Esposito, A. M., Murphy, L., Shoji, M., Del Grosso, P., Kiambuthi, W., & et al. (2017). [Progress and challenges in developing tiered quality rating and improvement systems \(TQRIS\) in the Round 1 Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge \(RTT-ELC\) states. \(NCEE 2018-4003\)](#). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance.

Ohio. Office of the Governor. (2017). [Early Learning Challenge: 2016 final performance report: Ohio](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Ohio. Office of the Governor. (2016). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: Ohio](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Ohio. Office of the Governor. (2015). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: Ohio](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Ohio. Office of the Governor. (2013). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge annual performance report: CFDA number: 84.412: State of Ohio: Report year 2012](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Ohio. Office of the Governor. (n.d.). [Annual Performance Report: Ohio 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Zellman, G. L., & Perlman, M. (2008). [Child-care quality rating and improvement systems in five pioneer states: Implementation issues and lessons learned. \(MG-795-AECF/SPF/UWA\)](#). Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation.

Oklahoma

Norris, D. J., & Dunn, L. (2004). ["Reaching for the stars": Family child care home validation study: Final report](#). Norman, OK: Early Childhood Collaborative of Oklahoma.

Norris, D. J., Dunn, L., & Eckert, L. (2003). ["Reaching for the stars": Center validation study final report](#). Norman, OK: Early Childhood Collaborative of Oklahoma.

Zellman, G. L., & Perlman, M. (2008). [Child-care quality rating and improvement systems in five pioneer states: Implementation issues and lessons learned. \(MG-795-AECF/SPF/UWA\)](#). Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation.

Oregon

Lipscomb, S. T., Weber, R., Green, B. L., & Patterson, L. (n.d.). [Oregon's quality rating improvement system \(QRIS\) validation study one: Associations with observed program quality](#). Corvallis, OR: Oregon Child Care Research Partnership.

Oregon. Early Learning Division. (2017). [Early Learning Challenge: 2016 annual performance report: Oregon](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Oregon. Early Learning Division. (2016). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: Oregon](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Oregon. Early Learning Division. (2015). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: Oregon](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Oregon. Early Learning Division. (n.d.). [Annual Performance Report: Oregon 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Tout, K., Magnuson, K. A., Lipscomb, S. T., Karoly, L. A., Starr, R., Quick, H., Early, D., & et al. (2017). [Validation of the quality ratings used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): A synthesis of state studies. \(OPRE Report No. 2017-92\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\).](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Western Oregon University. Center on Early Learning. (2014). [Data facts: Oregon's QRIS.](#) Monmouth: Western Oregon University, Center on Early Learning.

Pennsylvania

Caronongan, P., Kirby, G., Malone, L., & Boller, K. (2011). [The Child Care Quality Rating System \(QRS\) Assessment: Defining and measuring quality: An in-depth study of five child care quality rating and improvement systems. \(OPRE Report 2011-29\).](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Fiene, R. (2006). [Evaluation of Keystone STARS quality rating system: Preliminary results.](#) Harrisburg: Pennsylvania State University, Capital Area Health and Human Development Institute.

Kane, M., Lowe, C., Tout, K., & Warner-Richter, M. (2018). [Reflections on a decade of child care quality improvement: Learning from Success By 6\(R\). \(Publication No. 2018-11\).](#) Bethesda, MD: Child Trends.

Kirby, G., Boller, K., & Zaveri, H. (2011). [The Child Care Quality Rating System \(QRS\) Assessment: Child care quality rating and improvement systems: Approaches to integrating programs for young children in two states. \(OPRE Report 2011-28\).](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Malone, L. M., & Boller, K. (2015). [What do quality rating levels mean?: Examining the implementation of QRIS ratings to inform validation.](#) *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 30(1), 291-305.

Pennsylvania Early Learning Keys to Quality. (2011). [Preschoolers in Keystone STAR 3 and 4 programs make impressive progress, ready for kindergarten.](#) Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Early Learning Keys to Quality.

Pennsylvania. Office of Child Development and Early Learning. (2008). [Keystone STARS provider survey: 2008 report on results.](#) Harrisburg: Pennsylvania, Office of Child Development and Early Learning.

Pennsylvania. Office of Child Development and Early Learning. (2011). [Keystone STARS provider survey: 2010-2011 results. \(Research Brief Issue 3\).](#) Harrisburg: Pennsylvania, Office of Child Development and Early Learning.

Pennsylvania. Office of Child Development and Early Learning. (2011). [Keystone STARS technical assistance. \(Research Brief Issue 4, Rev. ed.\).](#) Harrisburg: Pennsylvania, Office of Child Development and Early Learning.

Pennsylvania. Office of Child Development and Early Learning. (2012). [Children's progress update: Keystone STAR 3 and 4 programs, 2011-2012. \(Research Brief Issue 8\).](#) Harrisburg: Pennsylvania, Office of Child Development and Early Learning.

Pennsylvania. Office of Child Development and Early Learning. (2012). [Keystone STARS designator reliability. \(Research Brief Issue 5\).](#) Harrisburg: Pennsylvania, Office of Child Development and Early Learning.

Pennsylvania. Office of Child Development and Early Learning. (2013). [Assessing quality across all STAR levels. \(Research Brief Vol. 2, Issue 1\).](#) Harrisburg: Pennsylvania, Office of Child Development and Early Learning.

Pennsylvania. Office of Child Development and Early Learning. (2013). [Keystone STARS technical assistance. \(Research Brief Vol. 2, Issue 2\).](#) Harrisburg: Pennsylvania, Office of Child Development and Early Learning.

Pennsylvania. Office of Child Development and Early Learning. Research and Evaluation Unit. (2010). [Demonstrating quality: Pennsylvania Keystone STARS 2010 program report.](#) Harrisburg: Pennsylvania, Office of Child Development and Early Learning.

Pennsylvania. Office of the Governor. (2017). [Early Learning Challenge: 2016 annual performance report: Pennsylvania.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Pennsylvania. Office of the Governor. (2016). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015](#)

[annual performance report: Pennsylvania](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Pennsylvania. Office of the Governor. (2015). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: Pennsylvania](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts. (2010). [June 2010: Keystone STARS: Building a better, brighter future for Pennsylvania](#). Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts.

Perkins, K. J. (2017). [Pennsylvania's Keystone STARS Revisioning process: A process evaluation](#). Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania Early Learning Keys to Quality.

Sirinides, P., Fantuzzo, J. W., LeBoeuf, W., Barghaus, K. M., & Fink, R. (2016). [An inquiry into Pennsylvania's early childhood quality rating and improvement system. \(PB 15-4\)](#). Philadelphia, PA: Consortium for Policy Research in Education.

Sirinides, P., Fantuzzo, J. W., LeBoeuf, W., Barghaus, K. M., & Fink, R. (2015). [An inquiry into Pennsylvania's Keystone STARS: Research report](#). Philadelphia: Consortium for Policy Research in Education.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

University of Pittsburgh. School of Education. Office of Child Development. (2006). [Evaluation of Pennsylvania's Keystone STARS Quality Rating System in child care settings](#). Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh, School of Education, Office of Child Development.

Warner-Richter, M., Lowe, C., Tout, K., Epstein, D. J., & Li, W. (2016). [Improving quality for child care centers in Greater Philadelphia: An evaluation of Success By 6: Final report. \(Publication #2016-07\)](#). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

Zellman, G. L., & Perlman, M. (2008). [Child-care quality rating and improvement systems in five pioneer states: Implementation issues and lessons learned. \(MG-795-AECF/SPF/UWA\)](#). Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation.

Rhode Island

Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Esposito, A. M., Murphy, L., Shoji, M., Del Grosso, P., Kiambuthi, W., & et al. (2017). [Progress and challenges in developing tiered quality rating and improvement systems \(TQRIS\) in the Round 1 Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge \(RTT-ELC\) states. \(NCEE 2018-4003\)](#). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance.

Maxwell, K. (2008). [Pilot test of the draft Rhode Island BrightStars child care center and preschool framework](#). Providence, RI: Rhode Island Kids Count.

Maxwell, K. (2009). [Pilot test of the draft Rhode Island BrightStars family child care framework](#). Providence, RI: Rhode Island Kids Count.

Maxwell, K. (2010). [Pilot test of the draft Rhode Island BrightStars school age child care \(K-5\) framework](#). Providence, RI: Rhode Island Kids Count.

Maxwell, K., Blasberg, A., Early, D., Li, W., & Orfali, N. (2016). [Evaluation of Rhode Island's BrightStars Child Care Center and Preschool Quality Framework. \(Publication No. 2016-60\)](#). Chapel Hill, NC: Child Trends.

Mitchell, A. W. (2013). [The cost of quality early learning in Rhode Island: Interim report](#). Providence, RI: Rhode Island Early Learning Council.

National Association for Regulatory Administration. (2008). [Recommendations to strengthen Rhode Island's child care licensing regulations and compliance procedures to support a strong program quality rating system](#). Providence, RI: Rhode Island Kids Count.

Rhode Island. Governor. (2017). [Early Learning Challenge: 2016 final performance report: Rhode Island](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Rhode Island. Governor. (2016). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: Rhode Island](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Rhode Island. Governor. (2014). [*Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: Rhode Island*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Rhode Island. Governor. (2013). [*Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge annual performance report: CFDA number: 84.412: Rhode Island 2012*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Rhode Island. Governor. (n.d.). [*Annual Performance Report: Rhode Island 2013*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Tout, K., Magnuson, K. A., Lipscomb, S. T., Karoly, L. A., Starr, R., Quick, H., Early, D., & et al. (2017). [*Validation of the quality ratings used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): A synthesis of state studies. \(OPRE Report No. 2017-92\)*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [*Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\)*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [*2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [*At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [*Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Tennessee

Allen, C., Daugherty, L., Cunningham, M., & Wentzel, F. (2015). [*Tennessee Report Card & Star Quality Program: Year 13 annual report*](#). Knoxville: University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Social Work Office of Research and Public Service.

Caronongan, P., Kirby, G., Malone, L., & Boller, K. (2011). [*The Child Care Quality Rating System \(QRS\) Assessment: Defining and measuring quality: An in-depth study of five child care quality*](#)

rating and improvement systems. (OPRE Report 2011-29). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Cheatham, J., Pope, B., & Myers, G. (2005). Evaluating quality in state child care licensing: The Tennessee Report Card and Star-Quality Child Care Program. Nashville: Tennessee, Department of Human Services.

Cunningham, M., & Magda, J. (2012). Tennessee Report Card & Star Quality Program: Year 10 annual report. Knoxville: University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Social Work Office of Research and Public Service.

Denny, J., Hallam, R. A., & Homer, K. (2012). A multi-instrument examination of preschool classroom quality and the relationship between program, classroom, and teacher characteristics. *Early Education and Development*, 23(5), 678-696.

Hallam, R. A., Bargreen, K., & Ridgley, R. (2013). Quality in family child care settings: The relationship between provider educational experiences and global quality scores in a statewide quality rating and improvement system. *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*, 27(4), 393-406.

Homer, K., McCutcheon, E. R., & Cunningham, M. (2014). Tennessee Report Card & Star Quality Program: Year 12 annual report. Knoxville: University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Social Work Office of Research and Public Service.

Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Malone, L. M., & Boller, K. (2015). What do quality rating levels mean?: Examining the implementation of QRIS ratings to inform validation. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 30(1), 291-305.

Malone, L., Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Tout, K., & Boller, K. (2011). The Child Care Quality Rating System (QRS) Assessment: Measuring quality across three child care quality rating and improvement systems: Findings from secondary analyses. (OPRE Report 2011-30). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Moore, R., & Norman-Gordon, N. (2007). Evaluating child care: Tennessee's Star-Quality Program. Nashville: Tennessee, Offices of Research and Education Accountability.

Pope, B., Denny, J., Homer, K., & Ricci, K. (2006). What is working? What is not working?: Report on the qualitative study of the Tennessee report card and Star-Quality program and support system. Nashville: Tennessee, Department of Human Services.

University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Social Work Office of Research and Public Service. (2004). Who cares for Tennessee's children?: A review of Tennessee's Child Care Evaluation Report Card Program. Nashville: Tennessee, Department of Human Services.

Vermont

Learning Partners, Inc.. (2007). [Quarterly progress report: April - July 2007](#). Waterbury: Vermont, Department for Children and Families.

Learning Partners, Inc.. (2007). [Summary report of STARS application and participation: December 2007](#). Waterbury: Vermont, Department for Children and Families.

Learning Partners, Inc.. (2008). [Summary report of STARS application and participation: June 2008](#). Waterbury: Vermont, Department for Children and Families.

Learning Partners, Inc.. (2008). [Summary report of STARS application and participation: September 2008](#). Waterbury: Vermont, Department for Children and Families.

Learning Partners, Inc.. (2009). [Summary report of STARS application and participation: January 2009](#). Waterbury: Vermont, Department for Children and Families.

Learning Partners, Inc.. (2009). [Summary report of STARS application and participation: July 2009](#). Waterbury: Vermont, Department for Children and Families.

Learning Partners, Inc.. (2010). [Summary report of STARS participation: January, 2010](#). Waterbury: Vermont, Department for Children and Families.

Mary Johnson Children's Center. STep Ahead Recognition System (STARS). (2012). [STARS annual report: July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012](#). Waterbury: Vermont, Department for Children and Families.

Mary Johnson Children's Center. STep Ahead Recognition System (STARS). (2012). [STARS quarterly report Oct.-Dec. 2011](#). Waterbury: Vermont, Department for Children and Families.

Mary Johnson Children's Center. STep Ahead Recognition System (STARS). (n.d.). [STARS annual report for FY 2013](#). Waterbury: Vermont, Department for Children and Families.

Mary Johnson Children's Center. STep Ahead Recognition System (STARS). (n.d.). [STARS quarterly report: January 6, 2011](#). Waterbury: Vermont, Department for Children and Families.

Mary Johnson Children's Center. STep Ahead Recognition System (STARS). (n.d.). [Summary report of STARS participation: July 1, 2010- September 30, 2010](#). Waterbury: Vermont, Department for Children and Families.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\)](#).

Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Vermont. Agency of Human Services. (2017). [Early Learning Challenge: 2016 annual performance report: Vermont](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Vermont. Agency of Human Services. (2016). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: Vermont](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Vermont. Governor. (2015). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: Vermont](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services..

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Virginia

Bradburn, I., Dunkenberger, M., White, N. J., & Allen, E. (2011). [Virginia Star Quality Initiative family child care home demonstration pilot evaluation report](#). Richmond, VA: Virginia Early Childhood Foundation.

Lahti, M., Sabol, T., Starr, R., Langill, C., & Tout, K. (2013). [Validation of quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): Examples from four states. \(Research-to-Policy, Research-to-Practice Brief OPRE 2013-036\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Sabol, T. J., & Pianta, R. C. (2015). [Validating Virginia's quality rating and improvement system among state-funded pre-kindergarten programs](#). *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 30(1), 183-198.

Squibb, K. M. (2013). [Quality profiles in early childhood: An example from Virginia's quality rating improvement system](#). (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). Old Dominion University.

Washington

Boller, K., Blair, R., Del Grosso, P., & Paulsell, D. (2010). [*Better beginnings: The Seeds to Success Modified Field Test: Impact evaluation findings*](#). Princeton, NJ: Mathematica Policy Research.

Boller, K., Del Grosso, P., Blair, R., Jolly, Y., Fortson, K., Paulsell, D., Lundquist, E., & et al. (2010). [*The Seeds to Success Modified Field Test: Findings from the impact and implementation studies*](#). Princeton, NJ: Mathematica Policy Research.

Boller, K., Paulsell, D., Del Grosso, P., Blair, R., Lundquist, E., Kassow, D. Z., Kim, R., & et al. (2015). [*Impacts of a child care quality rating and improvement system on child care quality*](#). *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 30(1), 306-315.

Child Care Aware of Washington., Community-Minded Enterprises., & Washington (State). Educational Service District No. 112. (2016). [*Early Childhood and Assistance Program \(ECEAP\) pathway pilot: Year 1 report*](#). Olympia, WA: Washington State, Department of Early Learning.

Joseph, G. E., Feldman, E. N., Brennan, C., & Cerros, C. (2010). [*Seeds to Success modified field test year two preliminary descriptive report*](#). Olympia: Washington State, Department of Early Learning.

Joseph, G. E., Feldman, E. N., Brennan, C., Naslund, R., Phillips, J., & Petras, A. (2011). [*Seeds to Success field test year two: Final technical report*](#). Olympia: Washington State, Department of Early Learning.

Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Esposito, A. M., Murphy, L., Shoji, M., Del Grosso, P., Kiambuthi, W., & et al. (2017). [*Progress and challenges in developing tiered quality rating and improvement systems \(TQRIS\) in the Round 1 Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge \(RTT-ELC\) states. \(NCEE 2018-4003\)*](#). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance.

Mitchell, A. W. (2013). [*Modeling the cost of quality in Early Achievers centers and family child care*](#). Olympia: Washington State, Department of Early Learning.

Soderberg, J., Joseph, G. E., Stull, S., & Hassairi, N. (2016). [*Early Achievers standards validation study: Final report*](#). Olympia: Washington State, Department of Early Learning.

Tout, K., Magnuson, K. A., Lipscomb, S. T., Karoly, L. A., Starr, R., Quick, H., Early, D., & et al. (2017). [*Validation of the quality ratings used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): A synthesis of state studies. \(OPRE Report No. 2017-92\)*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [*Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\)*](#).

Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Washington (State). Department of Early Learning. (n.d.). [2016-17 ECEAP outcomes report](#). Olympia, WA: Washington State, Department of Early Learning.

Washington (State). Department of Early Learning. (2013). [Head Start, ECEAP & Early Achievers: Pilot project report and reciprocity plan](#). Olympia: Washington State, Department of Early Learning.

Washington (State). Department of Early Learning. (2018). [Cost of Quality: Phase II: Licensed centers](#). Olympia, WA: Washington State, Department of Early Learning.

Washington (State). Office of the Governor. (2017). [Early Learning Challenge: 2016 final performance report: Washington](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Washington (State). Office of the Governor. (2016). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: Washington](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Washington (State). Office of the Governor. (2015). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: Washington](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Washington (State). Office of the Governor. (2013). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge annual performance report: CFDA number: 84.412: Washington State 2012](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Washington (State). Office of the Governor. (n.d.). [Annual Performance Report: Washington 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

West Virginia

Kent, C., Price, J., Curry, J. A., & Sowards, K. (2011). [Quality rating and improvement system: Cost implementation study](#). Huntington, WV: Marshall University, Center for Business and Economic Research.

Shand, J. M. (n.d.). [Quality rating and improvement system for West Virginia: Revised cost evaluation](#). Huntington, WV: Marshall University, Center for Business and Economic Research.

Wisconsin

Faria, A., Greenberg, A., Hawkinson, L. E., & Metzger, I. (2016). [Development and implementation of quality rating and improvement systems in Midwest Region states. \(REL 2016-143\)](#). Washington, DC: Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest.

Grunewald, R., & Bezruki, D. (2012). [The economic power of early childhood education in Wisconsin. \(WPRI Report Vol. 25, No. 2\)](#). Hartland, WI: Wisconsin Policy Research Institute.

Grunewald, R., Jahr, M., & Snyder, M. (2017). [Rating YoungStar: How Wisconsin's child care quality rating and improvement system measures up. \(WPRI Report Vol. 30, No. 2\)](#). Milwaukee, WI: Wisconsin Policy Research Institute.

Magnuson, K. A., & Lin, Y. (2015). [Validation of the QRIS YoungStar Rating Scale: Report 1: Wisconsin Early Child Care Study findings on the validity of YoungStar rating for observed classroom quality](#). Madison: Wisconsin, Department of Children and Families.

Magnuson, K. A., & Lin, Y. (2016). [Validation of the QRIS YoungStar rating scale: Report 2: Wisconsin Early Child Care Study findings on the validity of YoungStar rating for children's school readiness](#). Madison: Wisconsin, Department of Children and Families.

Mueller, B., Peterangelo, J., & Henken, R. E. (2016). [The quest for quality: How YoungStar is affecting child care in Milwaukee County](#). Milwaukee, WI: Public Policy Forum.

Peterangelo, J., Carlson, V., & Henken, R. E. (2014). [Reaching for the stars: Examining YoungStar and its effect on the quality of Milwaukee County's afterschool workforce](#). Milwaukee, WI: Public Policy Forum.

Peterangelo, J., & Dickman, A. M. (2013). [After two years of YoungStar, a more complete picture emerges. \(Research Brief Vol. 101, No. 2\)](#). Milwaukee, WI: Public Policy Forum.

Peterangelo, J., Dickman, A. M., & Henken, R. E. (2012). [YoungStar at one year: An analysis of child care quality in Milwaukee County](#). Milwaukee, WI: Public Policy Forum.

Public Policy Forum. (2011). [Milwaukee County child care providers appear ready for YoungStar: Local providers compare favorably to state as a whole. \(Research Brief Vol. 99, No. 4\).](#)

Milwaukee, WI: Public Policy Forum.

Roach, M. A., & Wisconsin Child Care Improvement Project. (2007). [Mapping child care quality: Wisconsin's "Grow in Quality" project: Final report.](#) Madison: Wisconsin, Department of Workforce Development.

Tout, K., Magnuson, K. A., Lipscomb, S. T., Karoly, L. A., Starr, R., Quick, H., Early, D., & et al. (2017). [Validation of the quality ratings used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): A synthesis of state studies. \(OPRE Report No. 2017-92\).](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\).](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. (2011). [YoungStar in Milwaukee County: An initial progress report as of July 2011.](#) Madison, WI: Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.

Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. (2011). [YoungStar in Wisconsin: An initial progress report as of July 2011.](#) Madison, WI: Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.

Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. (2013). [YoungStar in Wisconsin: Analysis of data as of July 2013. \(YoungStar Progress Report No. 4\).](#) Madison, WI: Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.

Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. (2014). [YoungStar in Wisconsin: Analysis of data as of July 2014. \(YoungStar Progress Report No. 5\)](#). Madison, WI: Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.

Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. (2015). [YoungStar: We're turning five!: Five year analysis as of July 2015. \(YoungStar Progress Report No. 6\)](#). Madison, WI: Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.

Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. (2016). [Are we at the crossroads for Wisconsin child care?: Policies in conflict](#). Madison, WI: Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.

Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. (n.d.). [YoungStar in Wisconsin: Analysis of data as of January 2012](#). Madison, WI: Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. (n.d.). [YoungStar in Wisconsin: Analysis of data as of July 2012. \(YoungStar Progress Report No. 3\)](#). Madison, WI: Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.

Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. (n.d.). [YoungStar trends early 2012 to Feb. 2013: Movement toward higher quality ratings](#). Madison, WI: Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.

Wisconsin. Office of the Governor. (2017). [Early Learning Challenge: 2016 annual performance report: Wisconsin](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Wisconsin. Office of the Governor. (2016). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2015 annual performance report: Wisconsin](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Wisconsin. Office of the Governor. (2015). [Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge: 2014 annual performance report: Wisconsin](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Wisconsin. Office of the Governor. (n.d.). [Annual Performance Report: Wisconsin 2013](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Wolfe, D. (2012). [Milwaukee YoungStar survey shows a mixture of optimism and anxiety](#). Madison, WI: Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.

Multistate

Buell, M. J., Hooper, A., Hallam, R. A., & Han, M. (2018). [A descriptive study of the relationship between literacy quality and global quality in family child care programs engaged in quality](#)

[rating and improvement systems](#). *Child & Youth Care Forum*.

Burchinal, M., Soliday-Hong, S., Sabol, T. J., Forestieri, N., Peisner-Feinberg, E. S., Tarullo, L. B., & Zaslow, M. (2016). [Quality rating and improvement systems: Secondary data analyses of psychometric properties of scale development](#). (OPRE Report 2016-26). Washington DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Burchinal, M., Tarullo, L. B., & Zaslow, M. (2016). [Best practices in creating and adapting quality rating and improvement system \(QRIS\) rating scales](#). (OPRE Research Brief 2016-25). Washington DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Cannon, J. S., Zellman, G. L., Karoly, L. A., & Schwartz, H. L. (2017). [Quality rating and improvement systems for early care and education programs: Making the second generation better](#). (PE-235-RC). Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation.

Caronongan, P., Kirby, G., Malone, L., & Boller, K. (2011). [The Child Care Quality Rating System \(QRS\) Assessment: Defining and measuring quality: An in-depth study of five child care quality rating and improvement systems](#). (OPRE Report 2011-29). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Faria, A., Greenberg, A., Hawkinson, L. E., & Metzger, I. (2016). [Development and implementation of quality rating and improvement systems in Midwest Region states](#). (REL 2016-143). Washington, DC: Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest.

Herbst, C. M. (2016). [The impact of quality rating and improvement systems on families' child care choices and the supply of child care labor](#). (Discussion Paper No. 10383). Bonn, Germany: Institute for the Study of Labor.

Herbst, C. M. (2018). [The impact of quality rating and improvement systems on families' child care choices and the supply of child care labor](#). *Labour Economics*, 54, 172-190.

Isner, T. K., Tout, K., Zaslow, M., Soli, M., Quinn, K., Rothenberg, L., & Burkhauser, M. (2011). [Coaching in early care and education programs and quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): Identifying promising features](#). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

Jeon, L., & Buettner, C. K. (2015). [Quality rating and improvement systems and children's cognitive development](#). *Child & Youth Care Forum*, 44(2), 191-207.

Jeon, L., Buettner, C. K., & Hur, E. (2014). [Examining pre-school classroom quality in a statewide quality rating and improvement system](#). *Child & Youth Care Forum*, 43(4), 469-487.

Karoly, L. A. (2014). [Validation studies for early learning and care quality rating and improvement systems: A review of the literature. \(WR-1051-DOEL\)](#). Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation.

Kirby, G., Boller, K., & Zaveri, H. (2011). [The Child Care Quality Rating System \(QRS\) Assessment: Child care quality rating and improvement systems: Approaches to integrating programs for young children in two states. \(OPRE Report 2011-28\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Esposito, A. M., Murphy, L., Shoji, M., Del Grosso, P., Kiambuthi, W., & et al. (2017). [Progress and challenges in developing tiered quality rating and improvement systems \(TQRIS\) in the Round 1 Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge \(RTT-ELC\) states. \(NCEE 2018-4003\)](#). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance.

Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Malone, L. M., & Boller, K. (2015). [What do quality rating levels mean?: Examining the implementation of QRIS ratings to inform validation. Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 30\(1\), 291-305.](#)

Lahti, M., Elicker, J., Zellman, G. L., & Fiene, R. (2015). [Approaches to validating child care quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): Results from two states with similar QRIS type designs. Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 30\(1\), 280-290.](#)

Lahti, M., Sabol, T., Starr, R., Langill, C., & Tout, K. (2013). [Validation of quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): Examples from four states. \(Research-to-Policy, Research-to-Practice Brief OPRE 2013-036\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Malone, L., Kirby, G., Caronongan, P., Tout, K., & Boller, K. (2011). [The Child Care Quality Rating System \(QRS\) Assessment: Measuring quality across three child care quality rating and improvement systems: Findings from secondary analyses. \(OPRE Report 2011-30\)](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Singer, J., & Hutson, M. (2014). [Quality rating improvement systems: National scan of school age programs](#). Chicago, IL: American Institutes for Research.

Smith, S., Dong, X., Stephens, S. A., & Tout, K. (n.d.). [How studies of QRIS measure quality improvement activities: An analysis of measures of training and technical assistance](#). New York: Child Care & Early Education Research Connections.

Smith, S., Robbins, T., Schneider, W., Kreader, J., & Ong, C. (2012). [Coaching and quality assistance in quality rating improvement systems: Approaches used by TA providers to improve quality in early care and education programs and home-based settings](#). New York: Columbia University, National Center for Children in Poverty.

Smith, S., Schneider, W., & Kreader, J. (2010). [Features of professional development and on-site assistance in child care quality rating improvement systems: A survey of state-wide systems.](#) New York: Columbia University, National Center for Children in Poverty.

Sugarman, J., & Park, M. (2017). [Quality for whom?: Supporting culturally and linguistically diverse children and workers in early childhood quality rating and improvement systems.](#) Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute.

Tout, K., Chien, N., Rothenberg, L. & Li, W. (2014). [Implications of QRIS design for the distribution of program ratings and linkages between ratings and observed quality. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2014-33\).](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Tout, K., Magnuson, K. A., Lipscomb, S. T., Karoly, L. A., Starr, R., Quick, H., Early, D., & et al. (2017). [Validation of the quality ratings used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\): A synthesis of state studies. \(OPRE Report No. 2017-92\).](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Tout, K., Starr, R., Wenner, J., & Hilty, R. (2016). [Measures used in quality rating and improvement systems \(QRIS\) validation studies. \(OPRE Research Brief No. 2016-110\).](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Administration for Children and Families. Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation. (2010). [The Child Care Quality Rating System \(QRS\) Assessment: Compendium of quality rating systems and evaluations.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). [2015 progress update: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). [At a glance: The Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge year 2014 progress report.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

United States. Department of Education., & United States. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge: Year two progress report: An overview of implementation from the fourteen RTT-ELC states' Annual Performance Reports for 2013.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

Zellman, G. L., & Perlman, M. (2008). *Child-care quality rating and improvement systems in five pioneer states: Implementation issues and lessons learned.* (MG-795-AECF/SPF/UWA). Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation.

Prepared by: Daniel Ferguson
Last updated: September 2018

Research Connections is a partnership between the National Center for Children in Poverty at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, and the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research at the Institute for Social Research, the University of Michigan, supported by a grant from the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, the Administration for Children and Families, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.