Child Care Bureau's Pathways and Partnerships Resources
Quality Rating and Improvement Systems

Working parents need high-quality child care choices for children of every age and in every setting to raise healthy, happy, and successful children. Child Care Bureau (CCB) technical assistance resources are designed to help States, Territories, and Tribes increase access to high-quality child care choices. This resource list focuses on one or more of CCB's Pathways and Partnerships to Excellence in Child Care:

- Pathways to higher standards through child care licensing and quality rating and improvement systems

- Pathways to a highly qualified workforce through professional development

- Partnerships for cross-sector early childhood and school-age care systems

- Pathways to stronger accountability and program integrity in child care.

Quality Rating and Improvement System Overview Resources

Compendium of Quality Rating Systems and Evaluations

Provides information, analysis, and resources about quality rating systems for States and other key stakeholders.
Available at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/cc/childcare_quality/index.html#reports.
For more information, contact Ivelisse Martinez-Beck at ivelisse.martinezbeck@acf.hhs.gov.

Quality Rating and Improvement System Resource Guide

Provides detailed information and State examples on developing, implementing, and evaluating quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).
Available at http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/qrisresourceguide/index.cfm.
For more information, contact Peggy Ball at pball@nccic.org.

Quality Rating and Improvement System Cost Estimation Model

Allows for projecting costs to implement a QRIS initiative under a variety of scenarios determined by the user.
Available at http://qriscostmodel.nccic.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm.
For more information, contact Peggy Ball at pball@nccic.org.

Issue 4 of the Child Care Helps America Work and Learn Series

Provides information on State expenditures of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to develop QRIS efforts.
Available at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/initiatives/arra/cchawal/cchawal_v1_n4a.htm.
For more information, contact Peggy Ball at pball@nccic.org.

Standards

Requirements for Achieving Highest QRIS Levels

Provides information on the requirements that child care providers must meet to achieve the highest QRIS level.
Available on request.
For more information on all QRIS standards resources, contact Rose Ribeiro at rribeiro@nccic.org.

QRIS Standards About Child-Staff Ratios and Group Size for Family Child Care Homes

Provides information from five States that have QRIS standards on child-staff ratios and group size for family child care (FCC) homes.
Available on request.

QRIS Standards by Program Type and Groups of Children

Provides information on how State QRIS standards are delineated by program type (e.g., child care centers, FCC homes, school-age care programs) and by groups of children (e.g., infants and toddlers, school-age children, children with special needs).
Available on request.

Research Findings and Reports on Quality Elements and Standards

Provides research findings and evaluation results on QRIS elements, including program and practitioner standards and supports, quality assurance, financial incentives, and consumer engagement.
Available on request.

QRIS and Infant-Toddler Care

Designing Quality Rating and Improvement Systems To Be Inclusive of Infants and Toddlers

Gives an overview of the infant and toddler components embedded in QRIS initiatives.
Available at http://nitcci.nccic.acf.hhs.gov/resources/qrs_design_elements.pdf.
For more information on all QRIS infant and toddler resources, contact Karen Heying at kheying@zerotothree.org.

What Implications Do Quality Rating and Improvement Systems Hold for Infant and Toddler Care?

Outlines the discussion and recommendations from participants at an issues meeting in which two Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) administrators shared their perspectives on the implications of their States' QRIS efforts.
Available at http://nitcci.nccic.acf.hhs.gov/resources/qris.htm.

QRIS: Inclusion of Infant/Toddler Quality Indicator

Summarizes State QRIS efforts using infant-toddler quality indicators.
Available at http://nitcci.nccic.acf.hhs.gov/resources/qris_inclusion.pdf.

Including Infants and Toddlers in QRIS: QRIS Issues Meeting White Paper

Summarizes discussion points and recommendations emerging from a May 2008 QRIS Issues Meeting on including infants and toddlers in QRIS initiatives. CCB convened this meeting through the National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative to explore key issues in implementing QRIS activities that include infants and toddlers.
Available at http://nitcci.nccic.acf.hhs.gov/resources/AFF_whitepaper%2004%2030%2009%20(2).pdf.

QRIS and School-Age Care

Using the Child Care and Development Fund To Support a System of Quality Improvement for School-Age Programs

Provides information and considerations for State child care administrators and policymakers to improve access to high-quality, school-age programs that reflect the unique needs of school-age children.
Available at http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/using_ccdf.pdf.
For more information on all QRIS school-age resources, contact Soumya Bhat at sbhat@financeproject.org.

Afterschool Investments Project Webinar on Using CCDF To Support a System of Quality Improvement for School-Age Programs

Focuses on how State child care administrators are using a systems framework to strengthen the quality of care for school-age children.
Available at http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/aug09_recording.html.

Afterschool Investments Project Webinar on Including School-Age Programs in State Quality Rating and Improvement Systems

Explores key considerations for States looking to design or enhance State/Territory QRIS initiatives to include school-age programs.
Available at http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/webinars.html.

Use of Program Quality Measures in States With School-Age QRIS

Explores how States use specific measures of program quality in their school-age QRIS efforts.
Available at http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/program_measures.html.

Quick Facts on School-Age Care: Trends in Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (January 2010)

Provides an overview of State QRIS-related policy trends for school-age care, including a map showing which States have incorporated specific school-age indicators into their statewide QRIS efforts.
Available at http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/qris_trends.html.
For more information, contact Soumya Bhat at sbhat@financeproject.org.

Framework for the Development of School-Age Program Quality Standards

Provides a national overview of the key features of school-age program quality standards.
Available at http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/quality_standards.html.

School-Age Quality Improvement Self-Assessment Tool

Helps State leaders identify strengths, opportunities, and gaps in their current system of quality supports for school-age programs.
Available at http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/self_assessment.doc.

Quick Facts on School-Age Care: Trends in Quality Improvement (September 2009)

Provides an overview of State policy trends to improve the quality of school-age care, including a map showing which States have made school-age adaptations to child care licensing regulations, professional development systems, and quality rating systems.
Available at http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/quality_trends.html.

A Closer Look at School-Age Quality Indicators in Quality Rating and Improvement System Standards

Examines 20 State QRIS standards and indicators, with the results summarized in a table.
Available at http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/qris_indicators.html.

About the Child Care Bureau

The Child Care Bureau (CCB) administers the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program, a multibillion-dollar Federal and State partnership to support access to high-quality child care for working families. CCB helps States, Territories, and Tribes administer their CCDF programs through policy guidance, program support, technical assistance, and research.