

Virginia Quality: Virginia's Improved QRIS is Coming!



Soon the Virginia Star Quality Initiative will have a new look, a new name and new quality standards that recognize the key role of early learning in improving child outcomes. The Virginia Department of Social Services and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation are excited to announce that Virginia's Quality Rating and Improvement System will be known as "Virginia Quality."

Why the new name?

Virginia's Quality Rating and Improvement System has been going through some major changes. Based on research and feedback from stakeholders across the state, we have revised our standards to be more focused on children's learning and better encourage continuous quality improvement. As we transition into these changes, we have realized that we need a name that better reflects the revised system.

The name "Virginia Quality" communicates a simple & clear message – it emphasizes that QUALITY is what matters most to VIRGINIA, because we want Virginia's children to be prepared and ready to learn when they arrive in Kindergarten.

When is this happening?

Over the next few months, we will be transitioning into the new name. Stay tuned as we continue to work on a new website and other resources that support the revised system. For a preview, visit www.virginiaquality.com.

What if my program was already rated in the Virginia Star Quality Initiative?

Many programs have already demonstrated their commitment to quality by participating in the Virginia Star Quality Initiative. These programs will keep their star rating and will continue to be listed as star rated centers. Moving forward, Virginia Quality will ensure these valued programs have ample support during the transition to the new standards by offering specialized training and technical assistance. During the transition period, Virginia Quality will work to educate programs on the new standards and assist with the development of transition plans. Our focus, as always, is to help programs improve overall quality and rating level and communicate their commitment to quality early education to parents and families.

What else is new?

Virginia Quality will now have a “fast track” option that will recognize programs whose quality is already being assessed and monitored by another organization. Soon, Virginia Preschool Initiative, Head Start, and NAEYC-accredited programs can participate with less paperwork. Plans are in the works to recognize more partner organizations for the fast track option in the future.

To learn more about other new changes, please read the [Overview of the Changes to Virginia's QRIS](#).

The Virginia Department of Social Services and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation have partnered to implement Virginia's Quality Rating and Improvement System. Please visit www.virginiaquality.com for more information or questions contact vsqi@dss.virginia.gov or gris@vecf.org