

**Fact Sheet on Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) and
National Association for the Education for Young Children (NAEYC)
Accreditation**

QRIS and NAEYC Accreditation

Currently 15 states are operating *statewide* quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS) for early care and education programs. Thirteen of these QRIS link to NAEYC early childhood program accreditation in different ways. Some require accreditation to earn the top level in the rating scale; others allocate a certain number of points for accreditation. At their heart, both NAEYC Accreditation and QRIS share the same charge – to ensure the quality of children's daily experiences in early childhood programs, to promote positive child outcomes, and to support continuous program quality improvement. By providing the tools to guide early childhood programs on the path to higher quality within a QRIS, NAEYC plays a key role in working to strengthen all aspects of the early childhood delivery system – as it has throughout its 80-year history.

Research and evidence-based, NAEYC Accreditation standards and criteria set the national standard of excellence for center- and school-based early childhood programs. The benefits of linking QRIS to NAEYC Accreditation are clear: Using a national standard of high program quality in conjunction with state quality standards ensures that more early childhood programs meet uniform measures of quality that are research and evidence-based, regardless of the state in which the programs are located. Only North Carolina has no linkage to any accreditation.

Must be NAEYC-Accredited to reach the highest level	District of Columbia Indiana Montana
Must be NAEYC-Accredited and meet additional criteria to reach the highest level	Kentucky Maryland New Mexico Oklahoma
Must be NAEYC-Accredited or must meet a separate set of criteria to reach the highest level	Pennsylvania
NAEYC Accreditation included in cumulative points scheme	Colorado Iowa Tennessee Vermont
Being engaged in NAEYC Accreditation process used as an alternate pathway to the highest level	New Hampshire
NAEYC Accreditation used as an “alternate pathway” for reaching highest level, plus additional criteria	Ohio
NAEYC Accreditation not included	North Carolina

There are also **local and county pilots** in Palm Beach County (Florida) and Orange County (CA):

- In Palm Beach County, the highest level is national accreditation plus additional quality criteria.
- In Orange County, California, the highest level is national accreditation.

Another 32 states are considering a statewide QRIS – these states are at various stages in the development process. From our surveys of these states, the majority have not made a decision about where NAEYC accreditation will lie in their QRIS. For the states that are farther along in the process, we have learned the following:

Must be NAEYC-accredited to reach the highest level	Nebraska Washington
Must be NAEYC-accredited and meet additional criteria to reach the highest level	Delaware* Idaho* Maine* Missouri* Rhode Island South Dakota
Must be NAEYC-accredited or must meet a separate set of criteria to reach the highest level	New Jersey Minnesota
NAEYC accreditation included in cumulative points scheme	Kansas Oregon
NAEYC accreditation not included	Mississippi

***Note:** Delaware has a QRIS pilot and Idaho began implementation of its QRIS pilot in January 2007. Maine is operating a 6-month pilot that ended in June 2007 – the QRS will expand statewide in January 2008. Missouri has a state-approved QRIS model but is currently operating QRIS pilots. Louisiana began its QRIS pilot in June 2007.



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