

Quality Rating & Improvement System

Virginia Star Quality Initiative



Quality Rating & Improvement System

- Voluntary, market-driven strategy adopted in almost every state in the nation
- A method to assess, improve and communicate the level of quality in early care and education settings/programs
- A system to address multiple aspects of early care and education through a uniform approach that is available throughout a state
- Scope may include a broad range of early care and education programs and funding streams (*NCCIC, 2006*)

QRIS Participation in Virginia

- **Total number of eligible programs*:** 5424 (7/2014)
- **2014 Baseline:** 8% (429) rated programs in VSQI (7/2014)
- **2016 Target:** 15% of eligible programs

***Eligible programs:** licensed child day centers, licensed family day homes, certified preschools, religious exempt child day centers, Head Start and Early Head Start, and Virginia Preschool Initiative programs

Virginia Star Quality Initiative Regions

as of July 1, 2013



 South Western Region

 Valley Region

 Eastern Region

 Northern Region

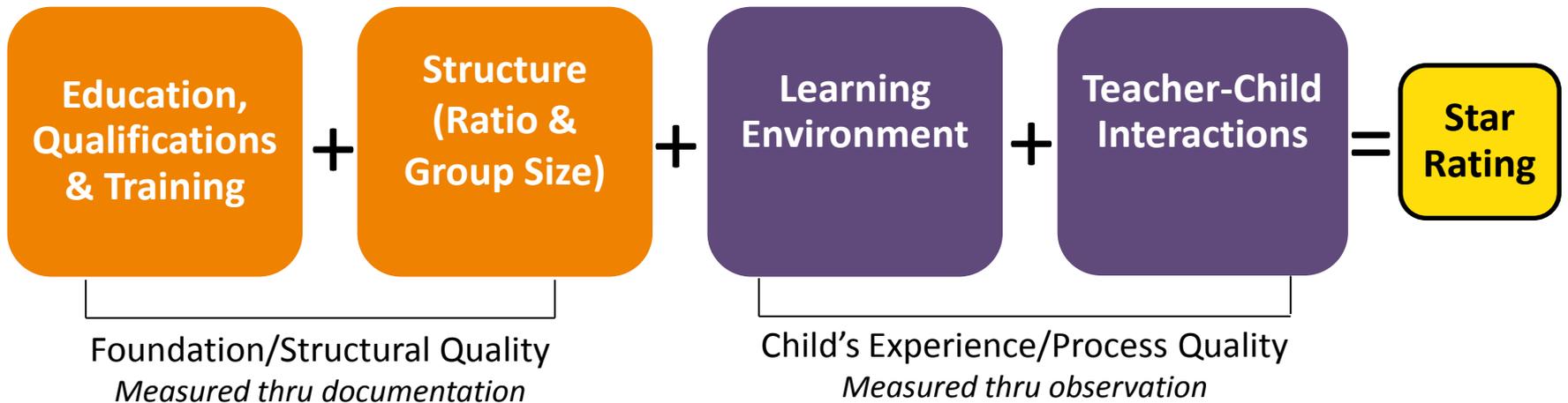
 Central Region

 Peninsula Region

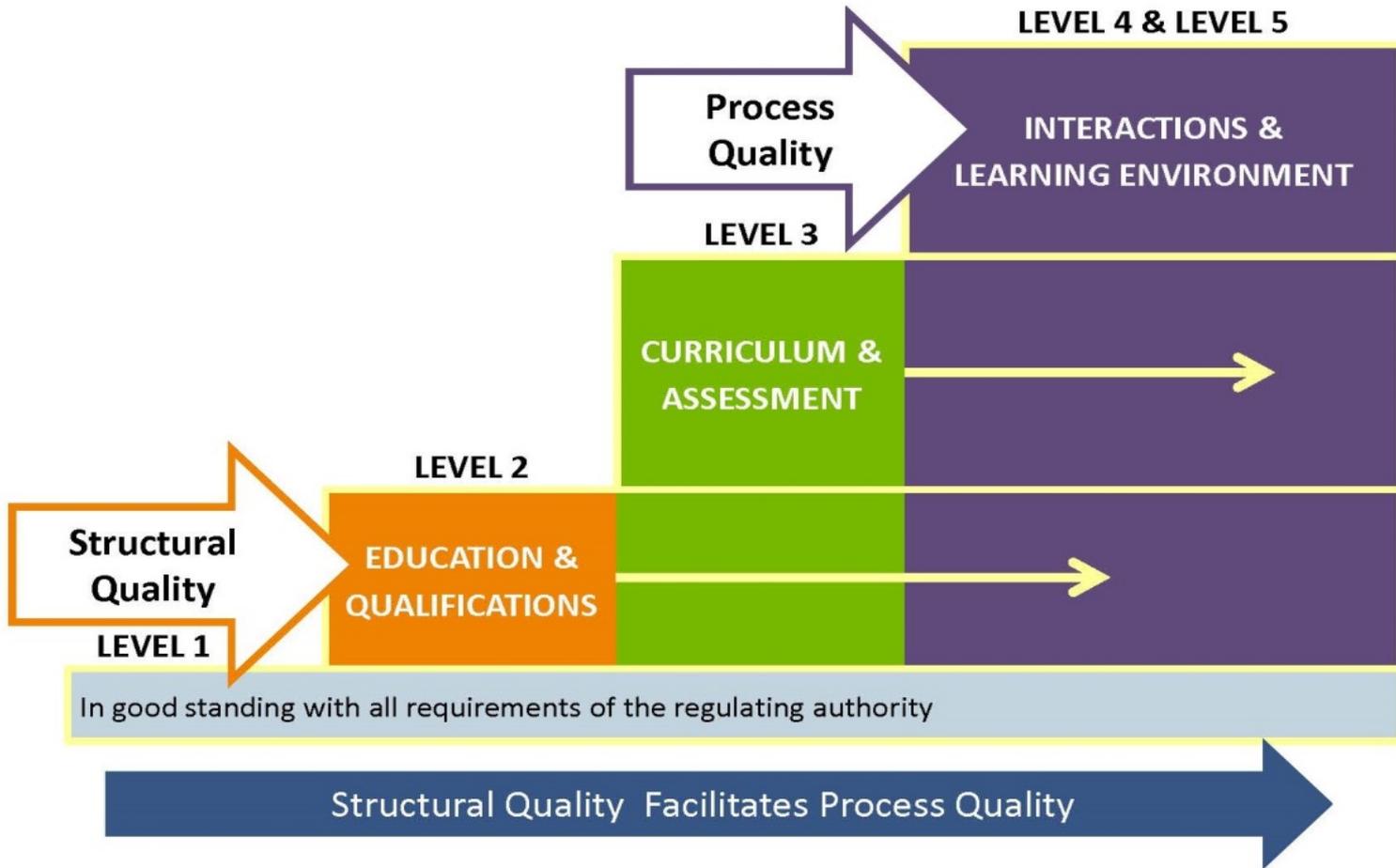
 Piedmont Region

 North Central Region

Star Quality 1.0



Revised Framework





Star Quality Standards for Child Care and Preschool Programs

LEVEL 1

- Basic Health & Safety***
- In good standing with regulating authority requirements (e.g., Virginia Department of Social Services Licensing Standards, Virginia Board of Education Regulations, Head Start Performance Standards, Local Ordinance or Licensed Family Day System)
 - Health & Safety demonstrated
 - Star Quality Profile completed

LEVEL 2

Education & Qualifications

- Classroom-based Programs*
- At least one (1) Administrator/Director meets Level 6 on Virginia's Early Childhood Career Lattice¹ OR has earned 24 child-related credits from an accredited college (or in progress)**
 - At least 50% of Lead Teachers meet Level 3 on Virginia's Early Childhood Career Lattice² OR another approved credential, such as an American Montessori Society Credential (or in progress)**
 - Online professional development (PD) series³ completed

Family Child Care Homes

- The Family Child Care Provider responsible for the direct supervision of children and delivery of the curriculum and instruction meets Level 3 on Virginia's Early Childhood Career Lattice² OR another approved credential, such as an American Montessori Society Credential (or in progress)**
- Online PD series completed

Curriculum & Assessment

- PD on curriculum & assessment

Learning Environment

- PD on play-based learning environments
- Health & safety checklist completed

Teacher-Child Interactions

- PD on high quality interactions using the CLASS⁴ system

LEVEL 3

Education & Qualifications

- Maintain requirements at previous levels
- Staff have 8-hours of training on implementing the identified curriculum or teaching framework

Curriculum & Assessment

- Completion of curriculum & assessment checklist online to demonstrate selection and use of curriculum or other teaching framework aligned with best practices such as Virginia's Milestones of Child Development or Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning⁵
- Visit by an external validator to confirm accuracy of curriculum & assessment checklist through on-site observation (must be completed within 1 year of achieving Level 3 status)
- Participate in regional technical assistance (TA) on curriculum & assessment

Learning Environment

- Complete Environment Rating Scale (ERS)⁶ self-study using the appropriate tool for the ages served and setting
- Participate in regional TA on high quality learning environments

Teacher-Child Interactions

- Complete CLASS⁴ self-study using the appropriate tool for ages served or participate in the Effective Classroom Interactions online course, if offered
- Participate in regional TA on high quality interactions

LEVEL 4

Education & Qualifications

- Maintain requirements at previous levels

Curriculum & Assessment

- Maintain requirements at previous levels

Learning Environment

- Achieve an average ERS score of 4 or higher across four subscales (Language-Reasoning/Listening and Talking, Activities, Interaction, and Program Structure)
- Participate in regional TA on high quality learning environments

Teacher-Child Interactions

- Achieve an average CLASS score of 5 or higher in Emotional Support & Classroom Organization (Pre-K CLASS), Emotional and Behavioral Support (Toddler CLASS), and Relational Climate & Teacher Sensitivity (Infant CLASS)
- Achieve an average CLASS score of 3.25 or higher in Instructional Support (Pre-K CLASS), Engaged Support for Learning Score (Toddler CLASS), and Facilitated Exploration & Early Language Support (Infant CLASS)
- Participate in regional TA on high quality interactions

LEVEL 5

Education & Qualifications

- Maintain requirements at previous levels

Curriculum & Assessment

- Maintain requirements at previous levels

Learning Environment

- Achieve an average ERS score of 5 or higher across four subscales (Language-Reasoning/Listening and Talking, Activities, Interaction, and Program Structure)
- Participate in regional TA on high quality learning environments

Teacher-Child Interactions

- Achieve an average CLASS score of 6 or higher in Emotional Support & Classroom Organization (Pre-K CLASS), Emotional and Behavioral Support (Toddler CLASS), and Relational Climate & Teacher Sensitivity (Infant CLASS)
- Achieve an average CLASS score of 4.25 or higher in Instructional Support (Pre-K CLASS), Engaged Support for Learning Score (Toddler CLASS), and Facilitated Exploration & Early Language Support (Infant CLASS)
- Participate in regional TA on high quality interactions

*Basic Health & Safety requirements must be maintained to achieve any of the higher quality Levels

**Programs may request a waiver to this requirement, provided that they meet all Level 3 requirements and are seeking a Level 4 or 5 observation

¹ Associate degree in a relevant field with a minimum of 15 child-related credits

² National Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) OR 12 total child-related credits OR Virginia approved/accepted training exceeding 120 clock hours or equivalent

³ Includes training on topics like Inclusion, Kindergarten transition, Strengthening Families, Cultural Competence, Professional Development Plans, and Employee Orientation

⁴ Go to <http://teachstone.com> for more information on the CLASS

⁵ Alignment with the Foundation Blocks for Early Learning is required for all Virginia Preschool Initiative classrooms

⁶ Go to <http://ersi.info> for more information on the ERS

Implementation Plan

Phase 1: Fall 2014 (October-December 2014) – Info Launch

- Training on new standards for Star Quality Coordinators
- New standards posted online
- Programs will continue to be rated and participate in Star Quality 1.0

Phase 2: Winter 2015 (January-March 2015) – Star Quality 2.0 Live

- New and existing programs can begin enrolling in Star Quality 2.0 on February 16, 2015
- Training on new standards for Star Quality Mentors and Raters
- Process evaluation begins

Phase 3: Spring 2015 (April-June 2015) – Accelerated Options and Outreach Campaign

- Statewide Public Awareness campaign launched
- VPI, Head Start, and NAEYC accredited programs may apply for Level 4 and 5 through an accelerated process facilitated by quality standards crosswalks (other accrediting organizations interested in completing a crosswalk should contact: gris@vecf.org)
- Process evaluation continues

Phase 4: Summer 2015 (July-September 2015) – Reflection and Refinement

- Process evaluation finalized
- Results reviewed and any needed adjustments to Star Quality 2.0 made

Phase 5: Fall 2015 (October 2015) – Full Scale Implementation