



# Frequently Asked Questions



## What is the Kansas Quality Rating and Improvement System?

The Kansas Quality Rating and Improvement System is the changing face of quality improvement in Kansas, whose mission is to improve early learning experiences for children birth to age five by creating a system that promotes high-quality child-centered care, is appropriately monitored and evaluated and supports parents as their child's first and most important decision maker and teacher.

### *How are programs rated under KQRIS?*

A rating of 1 – 5 stars is awarded to programs, based upon assessment of five quality indicators.

Learning Environment	Overall ITERS-R, ECERS-R or FCCERS-R scores for each classroom or home are added and averaged to obtain overall Program Score. <i>Score for indicator: 0 – 10 pts.</i>
Accreditation	2 pts. given when achieved & as maintained
Family Partnerships	Family questionnaires and program documentation are used to gather information on communication, collaboration, and family involvement opportunities. <i>Score for indicator: 0 – 10 pts.</i>
Training and Education	Points are given to individual staff and administrators based on formal training <b>and</b> experience. Points for credentials are averaged across ALL teaching staff. Administration points are added to teaching points. <i>Score for indicator: Centers: 0 – 10 pts.</i>
Adult : Child Ratios & Group Size	For <b>centers</b> , ratios scored at 0, 4, 6, or 8 points. 0– 2 points given for group size. For <b>family homes</b> , ratios scored at 0, 5, 6, 7, or 8 points. 0-2 points given for group size. <i>Score for indicator: 0 – 10 pts.</i>

Total points required for each star level:

1 star =	0 – 9 pts
2 star =	10 – 17 pts
3 star =	18 – 25 pts
4 star =	26 – 33 pts
5 star =	34 – 42 pts

### *What is the Quality Rating Assessment?*

The **Quality Rating Assessment** is a four-week data collection process. Assessment pieces include:

- Environmental Rating Scales in each classroom (ECERS-R, ITERS-R or FCCERS)
- Training and education documentation
- Family questionnaires
- Family partnership documentation
- Ratio & group size tracking
- Accreditation documentation
- Program self-assessment

*What does a child care program get as a KQRIS participant?*

KQRIS **Program Services** include a detailed QPP of the quality rating result, individual technical assistance from a Quality Improvement Coach, participation in Leaders in Quality Support Group, a Quality Improvement Grant that can be used to purchase materials and equipment as well as access to TEACH scholarships and WAGE\$ salary supplements.

*What is a QPP?*

A **Quality Performance Profile** (QPP) is the quality report generated from the data collected during the Quality Rating Assessment. It includes a summary that provides a broad overview of the program's current level of quality and the program's current star rating. The QPP also identifies the program's strengths as well as recommendations for improvement. All quality improvement and education recommendations stem from the QPP.

*What is a QR Specialist?*

The **Quality Rating Specialist** (QR Specialist) is a specially trained individual, employed by KACCRRRA, who completes the Environmental Rating Scale and collects all other data necessary for the Quality Rating Assessment and who writes the QPP. The assessment portion of the budget includes funding for the QR Specialist.

*What is a QI Coach?*

A **Quality Improvement Coach** (QI Coach) is a specially trained individual who provides direct technical assistance and coaching to directors and teachers in child care centers and FCC homes as programs work to make identified quality improvements. QI Coaches are employed by local Resource & Referral Agencies. The technical assistance portion of the budget includes funding for the QI Coach.

*What is the Quality Improvement component?*

The **Quality Improvement component** includes on-site coaching services from a QI Coach. QI Coaches work with the program to develop a program improvement plan based on areas identified in the QPP. The QI Coach works closely with each program mentoring, modeling and supporting the program to improve quality, working from the QPP and the program improvement plan. QI Coaches provide between 80 -110 hours of direct technical assistance to each program per year – depending on the program's Quality Rating. One QI Coach can carry a caseload of approximately 20 – 30 programs.

*How much does KQRIS cost?*

The **average** cost of KQRIS is approximately \$5,400 per classroom\*. In all, **82% of the cost of KQRIS is earmarked for quality improvement**, with 61% going directly to the child care program and teaching staff. The following provides a breakdown:

\$2,000 – TEACH/WAGE\$ to programs

\$1,200 – Coaching to programs

\$1,275 – Grants to programs

\$150 – Licensing Fee

\$775 – Rating

\$5,400 – per classroom avg. cost

\*For more detailed information about your community's KQRIS costs, please contact Jennifer Hecker, KQRIS Program Director, at 877-678-2548 or [jennifer@kaccrra.org](mailto:jennifer@kaccrra.org)