



GEEARS
GEORGIA EARLY EDUCATION
ALLIANCE FOR READY STUDENTS

**GEORGIA'S
QUALITY RATED
SYSTEM**

WHAT IS QUALITY RATED?

Quality Rated, Georgia's new Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), is a systemic approach to assess, improve and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs. It is similar to rating systems for hotels or restaurants and awards quality ratings to programs that meet a set of defined program standards. Early care and education providers who choose to participate in Quality Rated display a commitment to continuous quality improvements. Providers that meet the lowest Quality Rated standards have achieved levels of quality above the minimum operating requirements.



WHY DOES GEORGIA NEED QUALITY RATED?

There are currently more than 6,300 licensed early education and care programs in Georgia. It can be daunting for parents to research which program best fits their child's individual needs. Quality Rated assigns a quality rating to early and school-age education programs that meet a set of defined program standards to help parents make the best possible choice for their child.

HOW DOES QUALITY RATED HELP FAMILIES AND CHILDREN IN GEORGIA?

Research clearly illustrates the connection between the quality of a student's early care and education and a student's school readiness and ability to succeed in school and the workforce. Quality Rated will help raise the standards of early education programs for Georgia's youngest students, therefore advancing our next generation's potential. Quality Rated will help parents more easily choose a program that best fits their child's needs by assigning a quality rating to early and school-age care and education programs that meet a set of defined program standards.

HOW WILL QUALITY RATED MEASURE QUALITY?

Quality Rated assesses each child care center and education program individually. Each program submits a portfolio that highlights how the program complies with defined quality standards in areas such as family partnerships, teaching practices, and staff qualifications. Quality Rated assesses the classroom environment and staff/child interactions using internationally valid environment rating scales. Based on the portfolio and the environment rating scales, an overall rating of quality is assigned indicated by one to three stars. Programs that receive one star have still achieved levels of quality above the minimum operating requirements.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A PROGRAM LIKE QUALITY RATED?

QRIS programs like Quality Rated have a number of benefits, including: improving the alignment and coordination of system-wide initiatives, ratings that reflect quality indicators that enhance children's development and promote school readiness, increased quality of early care and education services, increased parental understanding and demand for higher quality programs, and increased professional development opportunities for early care and education practitioners and providers.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT QUALITY RATED?

Quality Rated is a public-private partnership. Please contact GEEARS to discuss how your company can assist with this incredible opportunity to support Georgia's children. Encourage your child care provider to participate in Quality Rated!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON QUALITY RATED, VISIT WWW.DECAL.GA.GOV

WWW.GEEARS.ORG



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WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT EARLY EDUCATION

LEARN MORE.

- Sign up for the GEEARS email list to receive updates.
- Visit high-quality early learning programs in your area.
- Join state and local organizations working to advance high-quality early childhood programs.

TAKE ACTION.

- Contact your local legislators.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.
- Participate in local events sponsored by GEEARS and other early childhood advocates.

SPREAD THE WORD.

- Encourage your colleagues to get involved and support early education.
- Arrange for GEEARS to speak to your professional association, faith community, business or civic organization.
- Talk to your employees and share information with other business leaders about the importance of high-quality early education.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE.

- Read to your children.
- Enroll your children in high-quality early learning programs and encourage others to do the same.
- If you own a business, release a statement on the importance of early learning.

PROMOTE GOOD PRACTICES.

- Encourage business organizations and other networks you are a member of to adopt positions in support of public investments for high-quality early learning programs.
- Provide information on the importance of early learning to your employees and customers.
- Ask your childcare provider to enroll in Georgia's Quality Rated program.

For more information, please contact Mindy Binderman, Executive Director at mbinderman@gears.org.

Facebook: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students

Twitter: @GEEARS



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