



**QRIS**  
Quality Rating and  
Improvement System

# The Stars Program

*An overview of Oklahoma's quality rating and  
improvement system*

Oklahoma Child Care Services

# Learning Objectives

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- What is Oklahoma's QRIS
- Why is QRIS important
- What are the benefits
- Resources available



# Oklahoma Licensing Law

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It is the declared purpose and policy of the Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Licensing Act [10 O.S. § 401 through 420 of the Oklahoma Statutes] to:

- Ensure maintenance of minimum standards for the care and protection of children away from their own homes,
- **Encourage and assist the child care facility to attain maximum standards,** and
- Work for the development of sufficient and adequate services for child care.

# Mission of Child Care Services

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To assure Oklahoma families have access to licensed, affordable, **high-quality** child care where children have the opportunity to develop their fullest potential in a safe, healthy and nurturing environment.



# What is The Stars Program?

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- Oklahoma's quality rating and improvement system
- A method to assess, improve and communicate the quality levels in early care and out-of-school education programs
- Designed using quality criteria and tiered subsidy reimbursement
- Built on minimum licensing requirements

# Quality Child Care is Important!

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- Early years are critical years for brain development
- Preparing young children with skills for the future and a productive Oklahoma
- Increase director, teacher, caregiver education and competency
- Fewer behavior problems
- Enhances academic performance for school readiness

# Outcomes

- Long lasting impacts on children
- Paves the way for parents to be in the workforce

[Perry Preschool Project - HighScope](#)

## ARRESTED 5+ TIMES BY AGE 40

PROGRAM GROUP

36%

NON-PROGRAM GROUP

55%

## EARNED \$20,000+ AT AGE 40

PROGRAM GROUP

60%

NON-PROGRAM GROUP

40%

## GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL

PROGRAM GROUP

77%

NON-PROGRAM GROUP

60%

## BASIC ACHIEVEMENT AT AGE 14

PROGRAM GROUP

49%

NON-PROGRAM GROUP

15%

## HOMEWORK AT AGE 15

PROGRAM GROUP

61%

NON-PROGRAM GROUP

38%

## IQ 90+ AT AGE 5

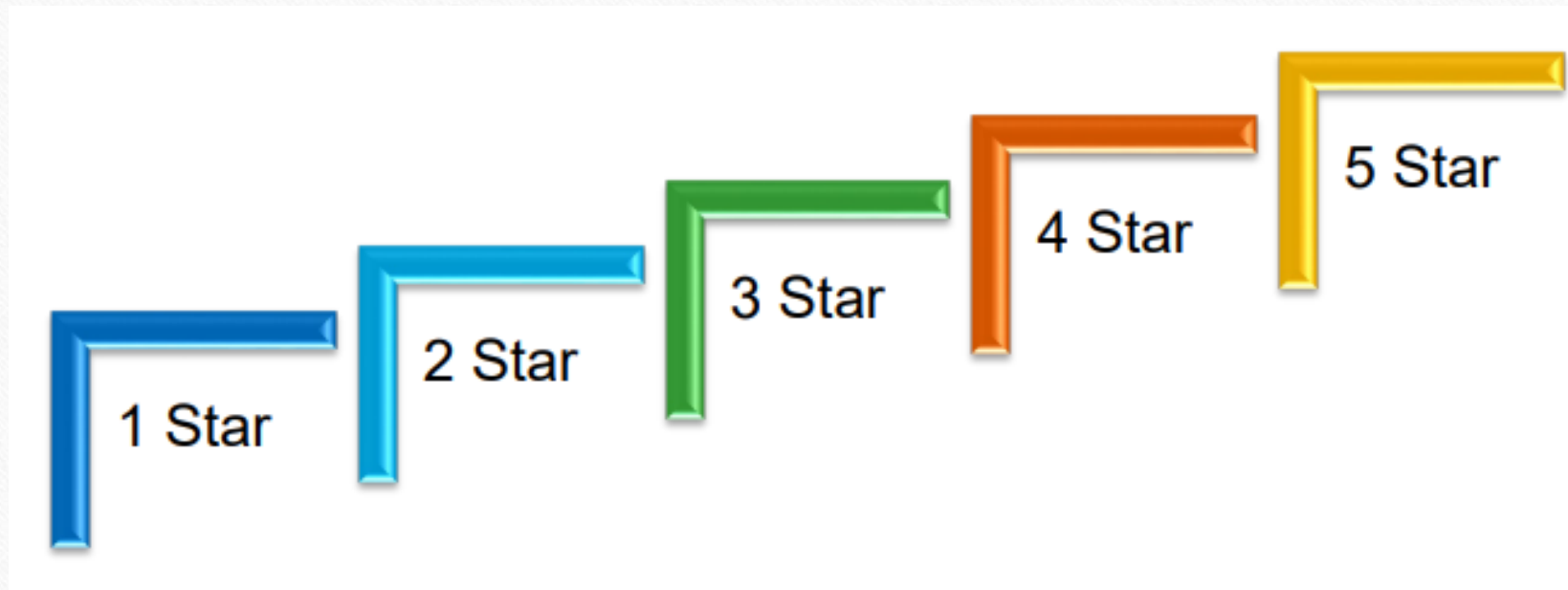
PROGRAM GROUP

67%

NON-PROGRAM GROUP

28%

# 5 Star Level System







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# Certified Healthy Early Childhood Program

<https://oklahoma.gov/certifiedhealthy/apply/early-childhood-program.html>

*OAC 340:110-1-8.11(a)(2)*. Four-star centers implement three program criteria, five-star centers implement five program criteria. Four-star out-of-school time centers implement two program criteria, five-star out-of-school time centers implement three program criteria

*OAC 340:110-1-8.11(b)(2)(B)*. Four-star homes implement two and five-star homes implement four health and safety criteria.

# Goals of The Stars Program

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- To increase the education and competency levels of child care providers.
- To increase access to quality child care for children receiving subsidized care.
- To provide a system for families to evaluate the quality of child care services.

# Quality Standards

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- Commitment to minimum licensing requirements
- Management/Administration
- Workforce qualifications and professional development
- Learning and development
- Family Partnerships
- Program evaluation for continuous quality improvement



# Benefits of The Stars Program

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- Star level printed on license
- Scholars for Excellence scholarships
- Certificate of Achievement stipends
- Oklahoma Wage Supplement
- Eligible for DHS Child Care Subsidy Contract and higher subsidy rates
- Commitment to provide quality child care

# The Stars Program for Child Care Programs and Family Child Care Homes





# Provider Resources to Support QRIS

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- Scholars for Excellence in Child Care  
<https://okhighered.org/scholars/>
- Resource and Referral Agencies (R&R)  
<https://www.oklahomachildcare.org/>
- Center for Early Childhood Professional Development (CECPD)  
<https://cecpd.org/>
- DHS Quality Coaches  
<https://oklahoma.gov/okdhs/services/cc/forms/coaching.html>
- Stars Outreach Specialists (SOS)  
[QRIS@okdhs.org](mailto:QRIS@okdhs.org)
- Licensing Specialists

# Stars Outreach Specialist (SOS)



**QRIS**  
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Amanda Rietz



Region III

Georgia Smith



Region II

Jenny Mallery



Region IV

Bree Dies



Region I

Amanda Hatcher



Region V

Oklahoma

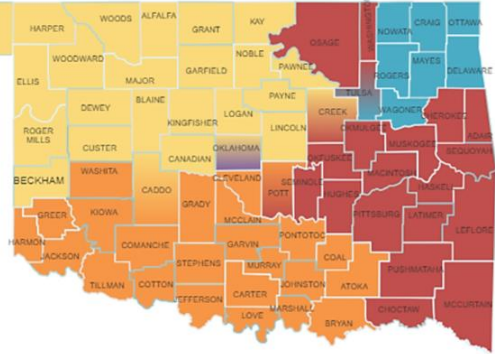
Bree Dies- Region I

Georgia Smith- Region II

Amanda Rietz- Region III

Jennifer Mallery- Region IV

Amanda Hatcher - Region V





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# Questions?

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