



Developing a Research-Based Conceptual Framework for QRIS

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INQUIRE

Quality Initiatives Research
and Evaluation Consortium

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INQUIRE's work and timeline

- Workgroup discussions in 2013
- Plenary address delivered by Marty Zaslow at 2013 QRIS National meeting
- Brief published in 2014
- Session held at 2014 QRIS National meeting to generate ideas for outcomes
- Expert Panel meeting 2015

OPRE Research Brief #2014-75
October 2014

Reviewing and Clarifying Goals,
Outcomes and Levels of Implementation:
Toward the Next Generation of Quality
Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS)



Original Plan: Propose a Complete QRIS Conceptual Framework

- Working definition: a QRIS conceptual framework provides an organizing structure for outlining goals and how they will be achieved

Original Plan: Propose a Complete QRIS Conceptual Framework

- Clarify the multiple goals of QRIS including but going beyond child outcomes
- Identify the activities needed to achieve the goals
 - See the gaps between expectations for outcomes and the scope and intensity of activities
 - Plan evaluation and monitoring activities to learn what is working

Revised Plan – Still in Development!

- Goal: Create research-based recommendations for QRIS design with a more streamlined approach
 - Focus on the health and safety foundations
 - Build a strong top tier of quality
 - Develop effective quality improvement supports that incentivize and promote movement
- Put recommendations in the context of other necessary system supports

Focus on the Health and Safety Foundations of QRIS

- Acknowledge the critical role of licensing in QRIS
- Draw upon resources such as Caring for Our Children to strengthen licensing (or supports at the first tier of the QRIS if licensing standards can't be addressed)
- Identify how plans aligned with CCDBG reauthorization should be connected to QRIS

Build a Strong Top Tier of QRIS

- Incorporate findings from a recent literature review of quality indicators included in QRIS
- Emphasize new research on quality thresholds
- Discuss new research on domain specific practices (math, literacy, supports for social-emotional development)

Develop Effective Quality Improvement Supports

- Invest in supports that help and incentivize programs to advance toward practices at the top tier
- Coordinate with efforts to support the early care and education workforce
- Consider the importance of program capacity and leadership to engage in ongoing continuous quality improvement

Put Recommendations in the Context of Necessary System Supports

- Efficient, coordinated monitoring protocols
- Supportive technical assistance
- Effective professional development and connections with higher education
- Financing to support, reward and maintain high quality

Timeline for Next Steps

- Reconvene Expert Panel to review proposed outline
- Draft product will be available for QRIS National Meeting in July

THANK YOU!

*If you have any questions about INQUIRE
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