

Pennsylvania



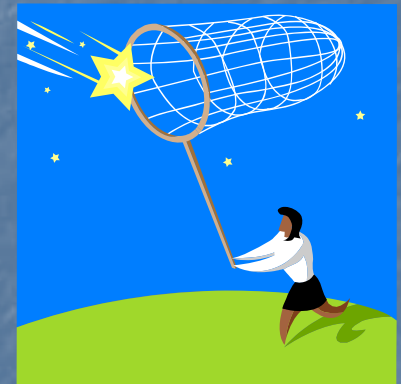
Early Learning Keys to Quality
Keystone STARS

August 1, 2007 – SAMI

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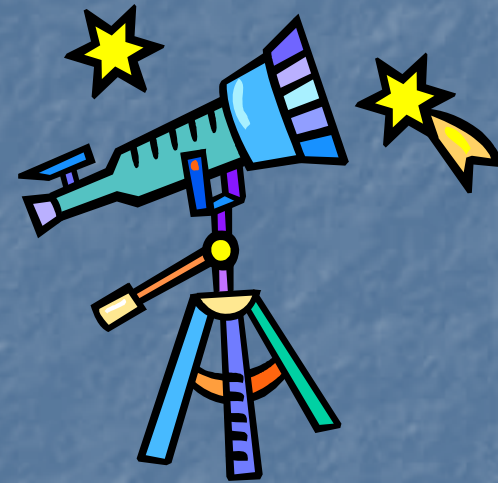
Principles to Guide the Work

- Quality Outcomes for Children and Families
- Individually & Culturally Appropriate Expectations
- Leadership at All Levels
- State and Regional Coordination
- Commitment to Quality Content (Standards)
- All Practitioners participate in CQI Activities
- Focus on Credentials and Professionalism
- Systems Coordination, Integration and Accountability
- Compensation, Funding and Financing
- Public, Stakeholder and Community Engagement
- Fully coordinate the work of PDE/DPW in the Office of Child Development and Early Learning



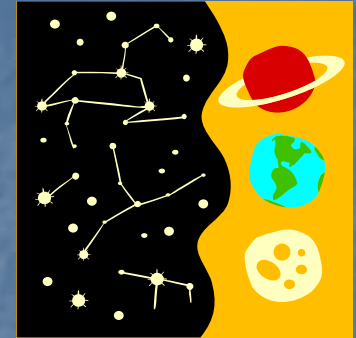
Orbiting the STARS in Pennsylvania

- ❑ Professional Development System
 - Core Body of Knowledge – Professional standards
 - Career Lattice – across systems
 - Engaging Higher Education (program to program articulation sessions)
- ❑ Development of Learning Standards
 - Early Learning Standards (K, Pre-K, I/T)
 - Curriculum and Assessment Recommendations
- ❑ Department of Education Initiatives
 - Teacher Certification Changes (ECE and ELED)
 - Enhanced funding to ECE (full day K, facility fund, small class size, Pre K, \$40 million to State Funded Head Start)
- ❑ Pre – K Counts (\$75 million) Child care must be STAR 2 or above to participate – cross systems with Public School, Head Start, Licensed Nursery Schools



Constellations Around the STARS

outside Pennsylvania



- Change in NAEYC Accreditation
- Mind in the Making & Born Learning – connecting research to practice
- Other States involved in or considering QRS systems and Pre-K initiatives
- Research evidence supporting the need for quality early learning experiences for young children
- Strengthening Cross System program development

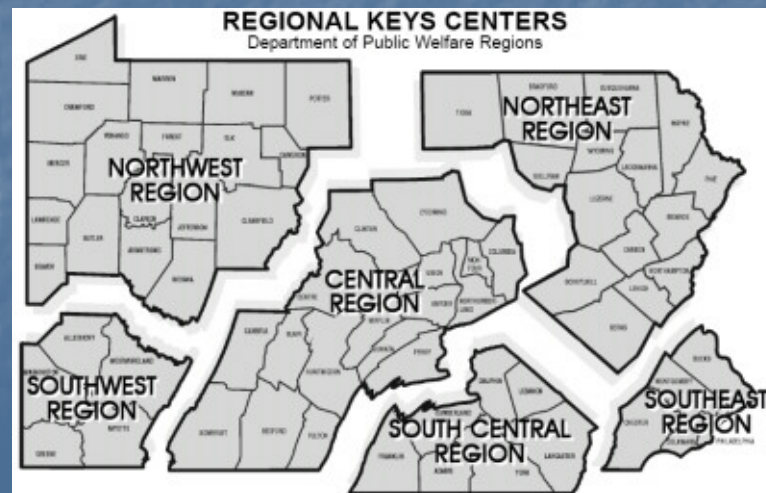
Aligning the STARS.....

- STARS – Standards, Training/Professional Development, Assistance, Resources and Supports
- Bring Professional Development and Program Quality together into the 6 Regional Keys with partners PA Key and OCDEL (lesson learned)
- Create a SYSTEM - all resources (financing etc.) examined to insure alignment with State objectives and linkages to STARS quality program improvement within DPW and PDE
- STARS Advisory Committee reviews standards and recommends protocol/program changes



System Administration – Six Regional Keys

- Develop and implement a regional plan to Administer Keystone STARS, convene system partners in regions, provide practitioner professional development/technical assistance and offer guidance to programs through the self-study process (designate programs, operate grant/award program).



System Coordination – PA Key

Responsible for:

- Management of statewide professional development initiative such as web based calendar, voucher program, Director Credential, School Age Credential, practitioner registry, special projects (Mind in the Making, TEACH Scholarship, etc.)
- Coordination of work with higher education community.
- Implement Career Lattice, Core Body of Knowledge and Professional Development Record
- Facilitate Infant/Toddler Mental Health Project housed in Regional Keys
- Management of environmental rating scale assessments related to Keystone STARS.
- Head Start Supplemental and Head Start Collaborative
- Pennsylvania Pre- K Counts



Number of Shining STARS

■ May 2007

- 8,915 regulated providers in PA
- Total Participation 4,369 programs in STARS (49%)
- 70% of Centers in STARS, 29% FCCH
- 152,833 children enrolled in STARS facilities



■ Targets 07/08

- Target Total Participation June 2008– 4,891 or 55% programs in Keystone STARS (174,797 children)
- Emphasis changing from numbers 'in' to numbers moving up
- Add State Head Start programs + Licensed Nursery Schools

When You Wish Upon a STAR...

Choosing the categories of standards

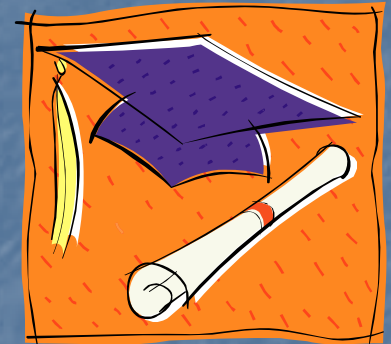
- Components of Keystone STARS Standards-
 - Staff Qualifications & Professional Development
 - Early Learning Program – *Environment Rating Scale, Child observation/ assessment/ curriculum*
 - Partnerships with Family and Community – *transition, including children with special needs*
 - Leadership and Management – *business practice, CQI plans, staff communication and support, employee compensation*



Professional Development and Technical Assistance

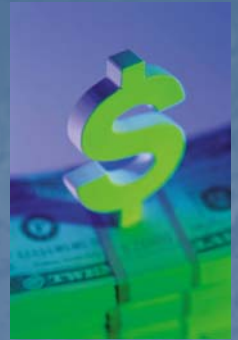
Must be able to support the Quality System

- Increased TEACH Scholarships
- Outreach to higher education community
- Movement from training sessions to credential-based and credit bearing courses
- School Age Diploma
- Director's Certificate
- Color Me Healthy – PDE, OCD, DOH collaboration
- CDA courses must articulate into credits
- CDA 'ready' voc tech programs



Paying for STARS 06/07

financial supports for all parts of the program

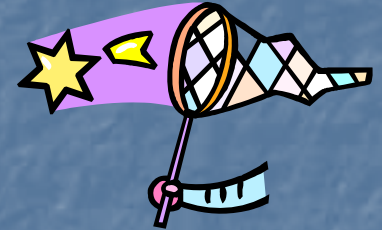


- \$6,527,422 – Regional Keys (STAR Management)
- \$5,072,729 – Professional Development and Technical Assistance (through Regional Keys)
- \$2,128,986 – Community Engagement (58 Community grants through the Keys)
- \$22.5 million - Payouts to providers
- \$10,674,907 – PA Key (PD, ERS, TA to Keys)
- \$46,753,937 – Total 06/07 for Keystone STARS

STARS Goal- Quality for Children

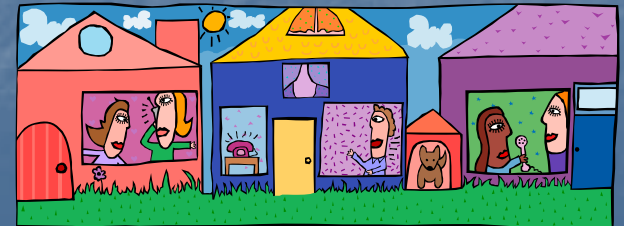
Align Resources - No Subsidy Minimum for the following benefits -

- Programs must be in STARS for:
 - T.E.A.C.H Scholarships
 - CDA class enrollment
 - Professional development (Visionary Director institute/ Ages and Stages) and
 - Vouchers - up to \$1,500 per year, credit based coursework
- STARS Programs Receive:
 - STARS Management support
 - Free ERS visit and reports to improve quality
 - Health and Safety resources and materials – Health Consultation
 - Free STARS Technical Assistance
 - Invitations to participate in special initiatives like Mind in the Making
 - Parent referrals in CCMIS prioritized for STAR 2,3,4
 - Pennsylvania's Promise - community PR campaign
- Adding Tiered Reimbursement in 07/08



PA is SEEING STARS

- Star level listed on Subsidy Referrals
- Brochures for Parents about STARS and benefits of Quality Early Learning Programs
- Increasing number of parents asking programs about STAR level (QUEST survey 2/07)
- Community Engagement Groups charged with raising awareness about quality learning programs, working with business, cultivating collaboration among public schools/Head Start/child care/EI and holding events in the communities
- On the web site www.pakeys.org
- Regional Key Newsletters



CQI of the CQI System

- Redesigning the award structure
 - Making sure the award structure supports the goals of the program and the Office to improve quality of programs and support our most vulnerable low income children
- Renewed focus on CQI process vs. checklist
Annual report, goal setting and checking up
- Redesigning the STARS Standards in 06/07 based on experience (streamline and clarify)
and strengthening important components (curriculum, assessment, connection to Early Learning Standards, support Early Intervention experiences for children). For 07/08 minor changes and deepening content and toolkits (ECERS-R, Program Admin. Scale, CLASS etc.)



Next Steps in PA, Final Thoughts

- Easy programs in, now for digging deeper
- Numbers stable, not growing, 'inactivate' those not actively participating
- Working on CQI in higher 'at risk' programs, supporting quality in diverse early learning settings—thinking about new strategies
- Leadership at all levels
- Supporting people doing the work (TA, PD and STARS Managers)
- Accountability – better data and statistics for decision making at the program level (ERS) and the state level, how are we evaluating the program and results?
- If you build it...They will come

