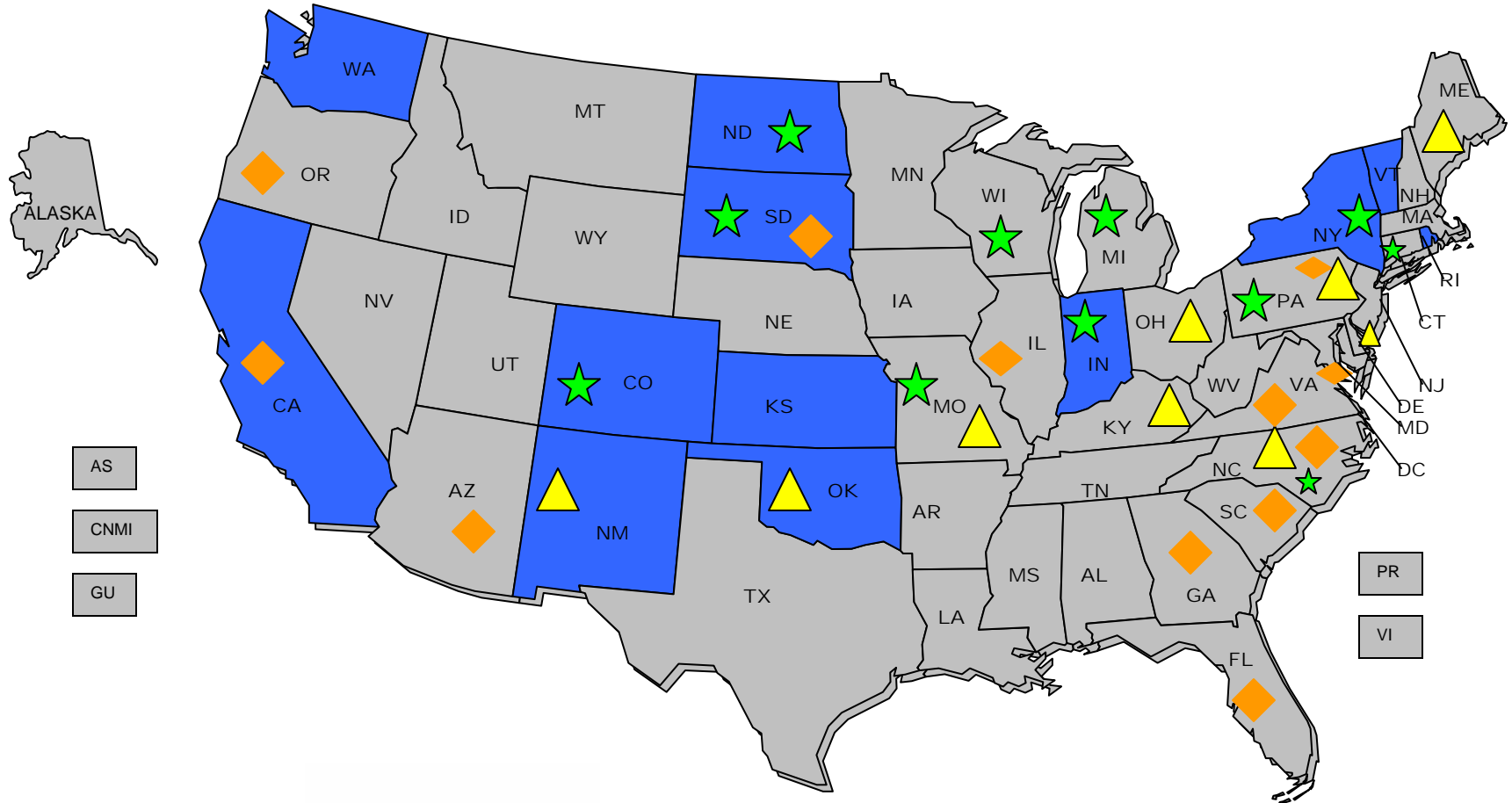


# Quick Facts on School-Age Care: Trends in Quality Improvement



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**KEY:**

-  States with separate school-age care licensing regulations
-  States with a school-age professional development system
-  States with school-age adaptations in a quality rating & improvement system (QRIS)
-  States with school-age care credentials



## **Quick Facts on School-Age Care: Trends in Quality Improvement**

**Licensing regulations** provide a baseline of health and safety requirements that child care providers must meet in order to operate in a given state. Currently, 13 states have separate licensing regulations for school-age programs, while nearly all (46) states and the District of Columbia have requirements for school-age care within their licensing requirements for child care centers. States with separate school-age licensing regulations are: California, Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, and Washington.<sup>1</sup> For more information, see: *Promoting Quality in Afterschool Programs through State Child Care Regulations*, available online at: <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/childcareregs.pdf>

**Professional development systems** use a clearly articulated framework to guide a continuum of training and ongoing supports to child care and school-age care providers.<sup>2</sup> The following 10 states and Washington D.C. report in their Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) state plans that they have professional development systems for school-age care providers: Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and South Dakota.<sup>3</sup> For more information, see: *Building Professional Development Systems for the Afterschool Field*, available online at: [http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/pd\\_systems.pdf](http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/pd_systems.pdf)

**Quality rating and improvement systems** (QRIS) provide a systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early and school-age care programs. The following nine states have made key school-age care adaptations to their rating systems: Delaware, Kentucky, Maine, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania.<sup>4</sup> For more information, see: *Using Quality Rating Systems to Promote Quality in Afterschool Programs*, available online at: [http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/qrs\\_afterschool.pdf](http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/qrs_afterschool.pdf)

**Credentials** are certifications that recognize when an individual has fulfilled a set number of relevant professional trainings. While the early care field has an established national credential for professionals (the Child Development Associate (CDA)), at least 11 states<sup>5</sup> have developed a professional credential for school-age and youth care providers. These states are: Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Wisconsin. For more information, see materials from Afterschool Investments' *Professional Development Audio Conference: Creating a Credential for a School-Age Workforce*, available online at: <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/tactivities.html>

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1 National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC) and the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA). "The 2007 Child Care Licensing Study". NCCIC and NARA, <http://naralicensing.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=160>

2 NCCIC. "State Professional Development System Credentials for Individuals." NCCIC, <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/poptopics/pd-credentials.html>

3 Afterschool Investments review of state Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plans for the State and Territories, September 2008.

4 Research conducted by the Afterschool Investments Project, May 2009.

5 NCCIC. State Professional Development System Credentials for Individuals. NCCIC, <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/poptopics/pd-credentials.html>. Also see:

Program Quality, Michigan Afterschool Partnership, <http://miafterschool.org/program-quality/certificate-credentials/>; The Youth Development Credential, Missouri School Age Community Coalition, <http://mosac2.org/tra/index.htm>; and Wisconsin, Early Childhood Career Guide, [http://collaboratingpartners.com/career\\_g/Licensure.html](http://collaboratingpartners.com/career_g/Licensure.html).