

Quality – Early Learning Programs Improving, Children Thriving

The *Winning Beginning NY* Coalition urges New York State to **invest \$20M in a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS)**, such as QUALITYstarsNY, to support all early learning programs in meeting higher program standards and improving children's early learning experiences.



All children deserve appropriately-funded and well supported early learning programs that promote their optimal development and learning. Children are born learning and the quality of their early experiences are critical to their development, school readiness and later life success.

QRIS have five key components that support all early learning programs in creating effective learning environments for the children they serve. The five key components are:

- **Research-based Standards** – *Provides a road map to higher levels of quality that are tiered and measurable.*
- **Professional Development and Technical Assistance** – *Targeted to the program's specific need based on needed improvements.*
- **Data, Monitoring and Accountability** – *Program quality is evaluated through consistent and on-going assessments and the data is maintained in an on-line system.*
- **Financial Supports** – *Three types of financial supports/incentives are provided to participating programs to help attain and sustain higher quality: program incentives, compensation supplements, and incentives to serve at-risk children.*
- **Communication and Outreach** – *Helps families make informed decisions about their children's early learning. Provides important data to inform early learning policy decisions.*

Budget Ask

QUALITYstarsNY, our current QRIS, is being implemented in 10 high-need communities across the state; 376 programs serving 21,079 children are participating. The current implementation does not include the full complement of financial supports. A first year state investment of \$20 million would enable 648 programs, serving approximately an additional 50,000 children to participate in a fully implemented QRIS.