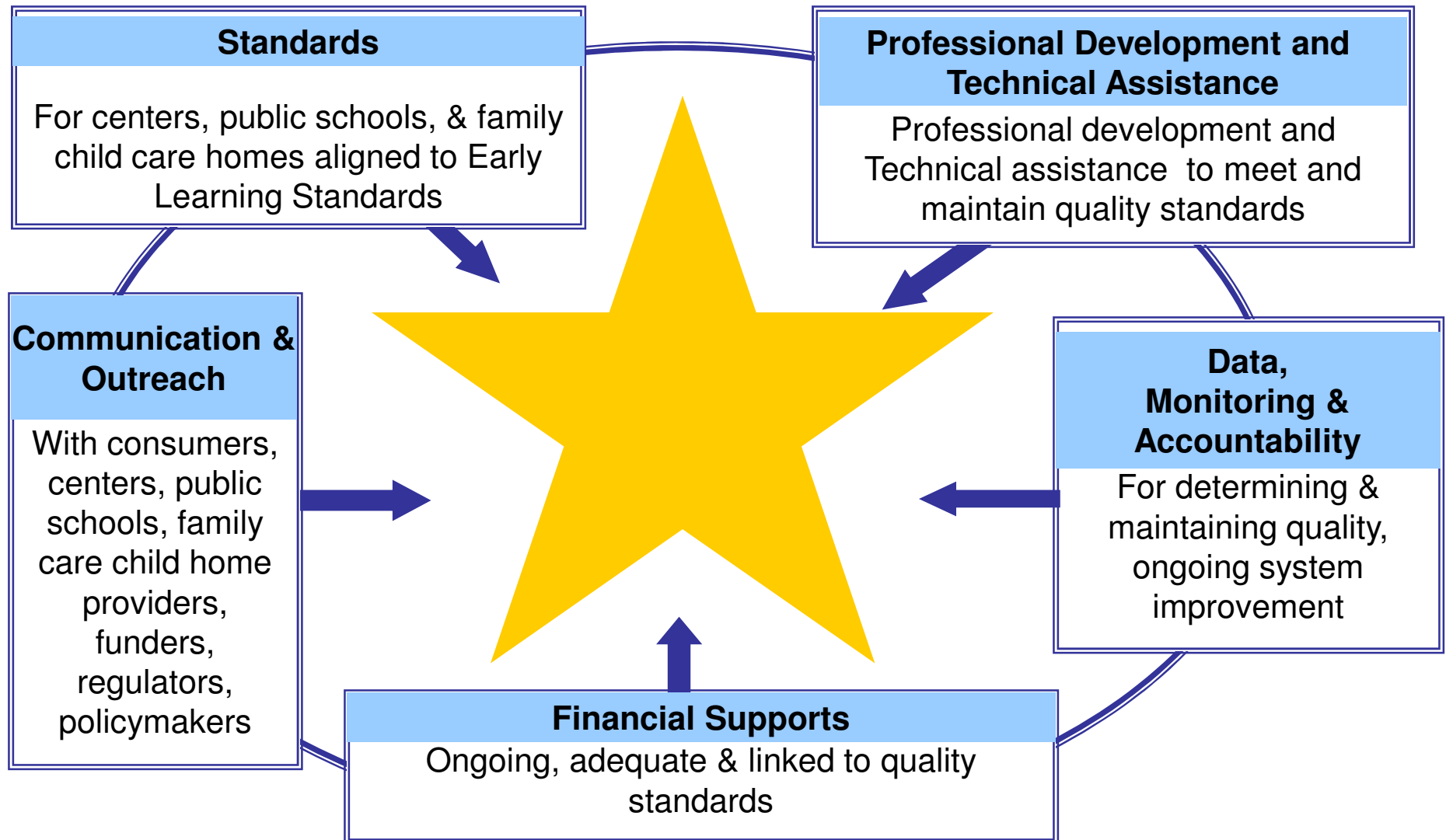




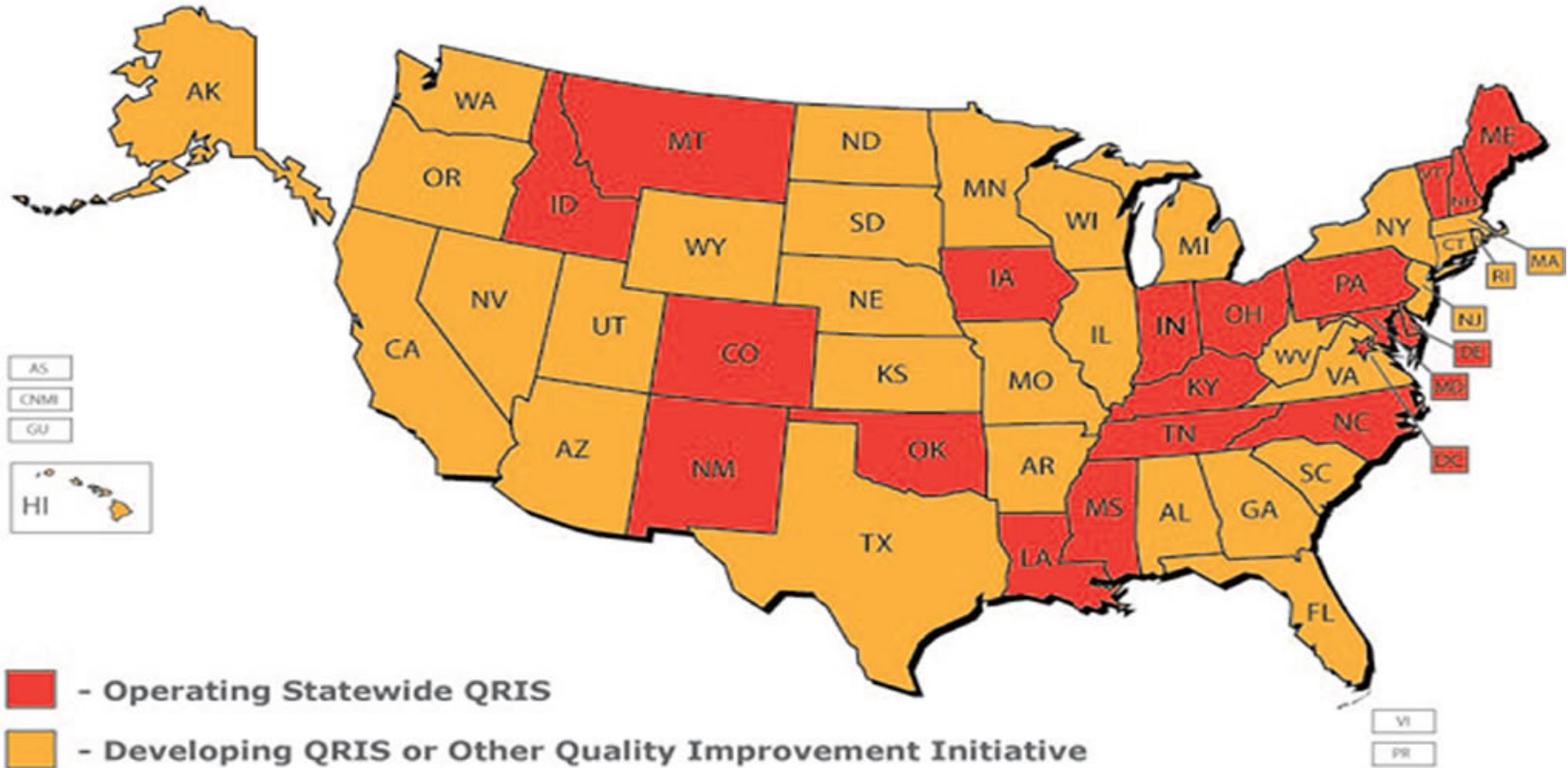
QUALITYstarsNY
a winning beginning for all our children

www.qualitystarsny.org

Key Elements of QRIS



States and Communities Operating, Piloting, Designing or Exploring QRIS



Source: Data compiled by the National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center as of March 2010.

Early History of QUALITYstarsNY

- ECLC obtained funding to spearhead the work
- The NYS QRS Work Group (2005-2007)
- Focus groups with families & early learning programs & practitioners
- Design Group drafted standards and designed the field test (2008 – 2009)
- Early Childhood Advisory Council has adopted the implementation of QSNY as a major initiative



Key Characteristics of QUALITYstarsNY

- Statewide
- Voluntary
- Open to all regulated early care and education programs and providers, including public schools
- Will include school-age care programs in future



Field Test Design of QUALITYstarsNY

- Points based on meeting the standards
- Maximum of 100 points
- Four categories
 - Learning Environment – 25 points
 - Family Engagement – 15 points
 - Qualifications & Experience – 35 points
 - Management & Leadership – 25 points



Field Test 5 Star Levels

Regulated program/provider



20-25 points



26-50 points



51-75 points



76-100 points



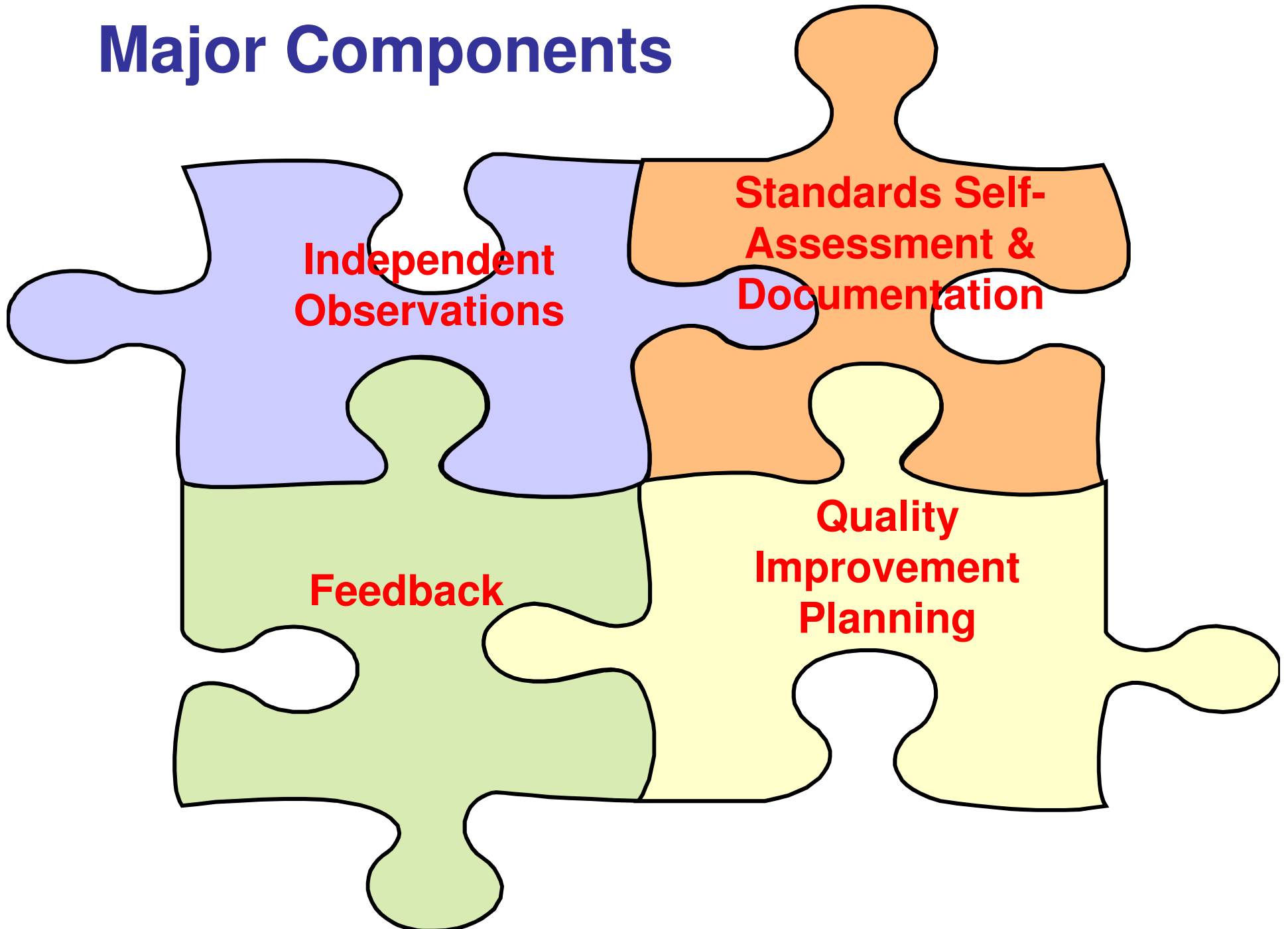
Field Test Goals

- Assess processes and procedures
- Estimate likely participation
- Validate the standards and the rating scale
- Identify commonly needed areas for improvement
- Demonstrate the value and use of community supports for quality improvement
- Develop web-based infrastructure

Field Test Design

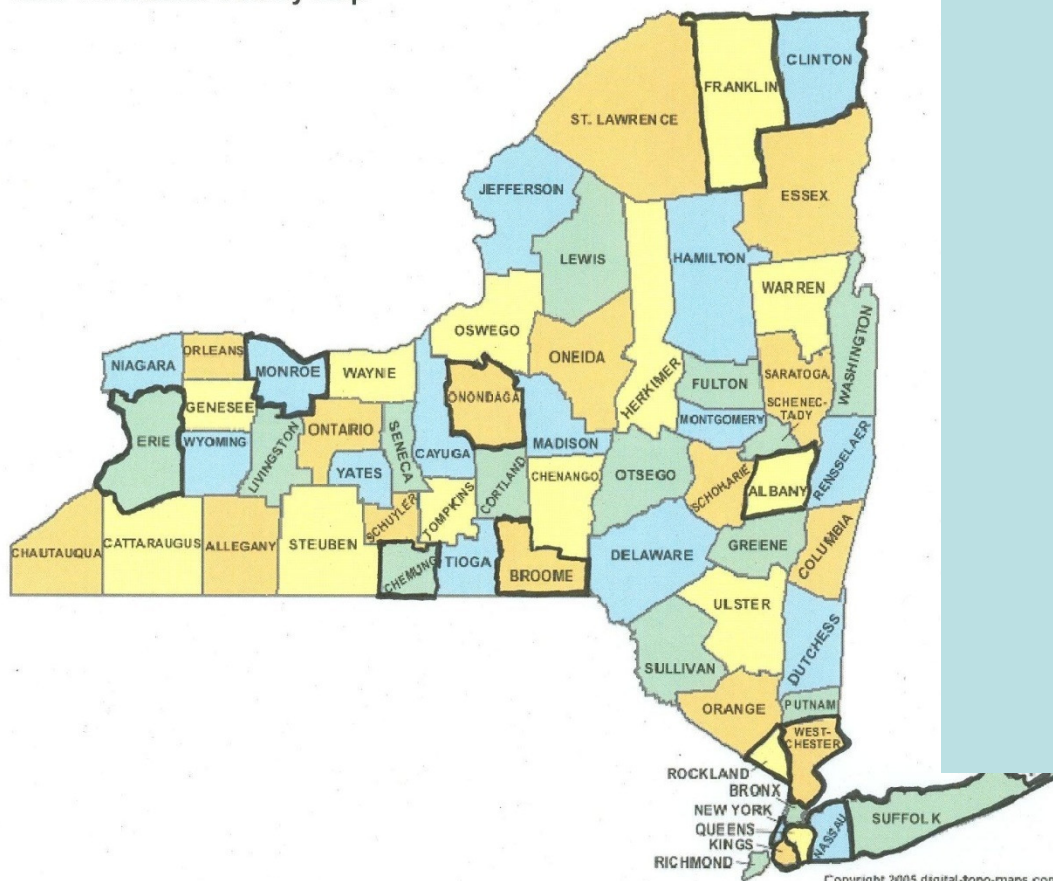
- January -December 2010
- 13 communities across the state
- 272 centers, public schools, and family child care homes were selected from 433 applicants
- 192 completed the field test
- Key differences from full implementation:
 - Shorter time frame
 - Limited Incentives
 - Limited supports for preparation and quality improvement
 - Observation component conducted as part of evaluation

Major Components



Field Test Communities

New York State County Map



- Albany
- Binghamton
- Brooklyn – New York City
- Buffalo
- Chemung County
- Clinton & Franklin Counties
- East Harlem – New York City
- Long Island
- Queens – New York City
- Rochester
- Rockland County
- Onondaga County
- Westchester County

Standards

- Key Findings of the Field Test:
 - Most participants were in mid-range of quality based on draft standards
 - Fewest points assigned in Qualifications & Experience and in Management & Leadership
 - Family child care homes assigned substantially fewer points
 - Many participants wanted greater weight for the learning environment and family engagement categories
 - Some aspects of quality were not fully captured

Standards

- Lessons Learned from the Field Test:
 - Training related to the standards is needed to help prepare for success
 - Alternative weighting of categories may better reflect the most “visible” aspects of quality
 - Clearer rationale statements linked with specific standards would help both participants and other consumers
 - Lower average ratings of Family-based child care settings may make it difficult to recruit this key sector

Documentation

- Key Findings of the Field Test:
 - Assembling and submitting documentation was very time-consuming
 - Providing detailed information required for the Qualifications and Experience category was particularly burdensome
 - Understanding what kinds of documentation were needed and providing documentation that met adequacy criteria were areas of concern

Documentation

- Lessons Learned from the Field Test:
 - Criteria for adequate documentation or other evidence should be clearly specified
 - Ability to submit documentation electronically would be less burdensome, as would on-site reviews
 - Workforce Registry would make information on Qualifications and Experience more accessible
 - Alternative methods of demonstrating conformance with the standards should be explored

Observations

- Key Findings of the Field Test:
 - Many participants were unfamiliar with the tools used in on-site observations
 - Most observations of global quality were in ‘adequate to good’ range
 - Observations focused on specific aspects of quality – adult/child interactions and nutrition/physical activity – had low correlations with global quality

Observations

- Lessons Learned from the Field Test:
 - Participants need greater familiarity with observational tools as measures of quality
 - Issues related to sharing observation results with program/school administrators need to be addressed
 - Consideration should be given to adding more focused observational measures

Quality Improvement

- Key Findings of the Field Test:
 - Strong interest in training, support, and feedback during the application/submission process
 - Resources for quality improvement were the most important benefit or incentive for participation
 - Access to high quality, affordable learning materials and equipment was a high priority but limited, especially for family child care homes
 - Immediate professional development priorities focused on knowledge and skills related to improving the learning environment

Quality Improvement

- Lessons Learned from the Field Test:
 - A range of supports -- written guides, web-based resources, orientation sessions, training workshops, e-mail/phone consultation, coaching, peer support groups – will be needed
 - Having a system for tracking progress and providing follow-up support will increase impact on quality
 - Developing the necessary policies and procedures to sustain quality should be a focus of quality improvement support

Messages for Stakeholders

- Key Findings of the Field Test:
 - Most participants of all types believed that state-wide implementation of QUALITYstarsNY is very important
 - Anticipated benefits from state-wide implementation include increased access for children and families to high quality settings and enhanced accountability for public investments in early care and education
 - Linking QUALITYstarsNY to reductions in the “preparation gap” was recommended as an important message for policymakers



Messages for Stakeholders

- Lessons Learned from the Field Test:
 - Messages should highlight link between quality & children's development and learning
 - Participation requirements and benefits should be clearly described
 - Special concerns/interests of public schools and family child care homes need to be addressed
 - Partnerships with local organizations will be valuable for awareness and recruitment

Next Steps:

It's all about getting ready!



www.qualitystarsny.org

Elements of QUALITYstarsNY

- ☆ Standards
- ☆ Finance
- ☆ Professional Development
- ☆ Data / Monitoring
- ☆ Communications

- Getting the **Standards** Ready

- Family-based Standards

- Family Child Care
- Group Family Child Care

- Center-based Standards

- Child Care Centers
- Universal PreK programs in schools and their community-based partners

- School Age Child Care Standards

- New York State Afterschool Network and others



Getting
Financing and
Fiscal Incentives

Ready

- Explore other states' systems
- Re-align existing resources

Getting the Professional Development System

Ready

- Continue to engage Field Test programs
- Strengthen existing partnerships
- New categories of specialists
- New workshops



Getting Data Ready

- QUALITYstarsNY database
- Staff Registry
- Early Learning Trainer Credential

Getting Communications Ready

- Key messages
- FAQ
- Fact Sheet
- Field Test – “At a Glance”

Statewide Videoconference:

**QUALITYstarsNY and
the Field Test Results**

Tuesday, May 24th, 2011

2pm to 4pm

Coming to a downlink location near you!

36 locations statewide with a capacity of 1200

Register (soon) at: www.qualitystarsny.org



www.qualitystarsny.org

We're getting ready for full
implementation...

Are you?

www.qualitystarsny.org



www.qualitystarsny.org