

Each of the requirements in the table below will be explained in this guidance document.

The explanations will include **what** the requirement is and entails, **why** it's included in the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) model and **how** you can document the indicator(s) successfully for credit toward your star rating. Thank you for your dedication to quality care in Nevada.

Rating Criteria				
One Star	Two Star	Three Star	Four Star	Five Star
Current Child Care License	Current Child Care License	Current Child Care License	Current Child Care License	Current Child Care License
Currently Registered with the Child Care Subsidy Program	Currently Registered with the Child Care Subsidy Program	Currently Registered with the Child Care Subsidy Program	Currently Registered with the Child Care Subsidy Program	Currently Registered with the Child Care Subsidy Program
	All Staff are currently ACTIVE on the Nevada Registry Career Ladder.	All Staff are currently ACTIVE on the Nevada Registry Career Ladder.	All Staff are currently ACTIVE on the Nevada Registry Career Ladder.	All Staff are currently ACTIVE on the Nevada Registry Career Ladder.
	50% of enrolled children screened using the BRIGACE Screen III	60% of enrolled children screened using the BRIGACE Screen III	70% of enrolled children screened using the BRIGACE Screen III	90% of enrolled children screened using the BRIGACE Screen III
	25% of classrooms meet QRIS group size	50% of classrooms meet QRIS group size	75% of classrooms meet QRIS group size	100% of classrooms meet QRIS group size
	25% of classrooms meet QRIS Ratios	50% of classrooms meet QRIS Ratios	75% of classrooms meet QRIS Ratios	100% of classrooms meet QRIS Ratios
		Average ERS scores 3.5 or higher	Average ERS scores 4.0 or higher	Average ERS scores 4.5 or higher
		No classroom scores lower than 3.0	No classroom scores lower than 3.5	No classroom scores lower than 4.0
			Suspension and Expulsion Policy that aligns with NDE	Suspension and Expulsion Policy that aligns with NDE
				National Accreditation

Current Child Care License

What: All programs must obtain a child care license from State of Nevada Child Care Licensing or Washoe County Licensing. You can find more information about child care licensing on their website [here](#) (State of Nevada – all non-Washoe programs) & [here](#) (Washoe County only).

Why: Child care licensing provides a solid foundation of health, safety and best practices from which to build upon for further quality improvements.

How: Provide a copy of your current license to your QRIS coach. You may wish to provide an additional copy into Easy Folio, however this is not a requirement, as the Office of Early Learning and Development (OELD) staff can verify your license status while completing your review without a copy.

Currently Registered with the Child Care Subsidy Program

What: All participating programs must have a signed subsidy agreement in place with The Children’s Cabinet (Northern Nevada) or the Las Vegas Urban League (Southern Nevada).

Why: The QRIS is a supportive initiative funded by the Child Care Development Block Grant. This program works to ensure that families taking advantage of the child care subsidy program have access to high quality child care.

How: Providers in northern Nevada can visit The Children’s Cabinet website [here](#) to complete applications and get more information about joining the child care subsidy program. Providers in southern Nevada, can visit the Las Vegas Urban League’s website [here](#) to complete applications and get more information about joining the child care subsidy program.

All Staff are Active on the Nevada Registry

What: [The Nevada Registry](#) is a workforce data system that captures the important information about Early Care and Education (ECE) workforce in Nevada through career development, recognition, and data collection.

Why: The QRIS is deeply committed to supporting and uplifting the early childhood workforce. The data and goals of the Nevada Registry help achieve positive outcomes for the workforce that will, in turn, benefit families.

How: Early childhood professionals can create a login and password register for their Nevada Registry accounts [here](#). OELD staff compare the Center Information Sheet in Easy Folio with a report from The Nevada Registry to confirm active participation.

Child Screening Requirement

What: The current required screening tool for the QRIS is The BRIGNACE[®] Early Childhood Screens III tools.

Why: The screening tools are used to create a common data language across all child care programs in Nevada. This data can help us learn about trends in overall program quality and assist us in making improvements to programs for children. Additionally, the data collected provides talking points for teacher and parent discussion, as well as guidance for teachers creating individualized supports for the children in their care.

How: New programs in their Steps to Stars cycle are not required to screen students. These programs are required to complete and submit documentation for the following three steps: 1. Attend a BRIGNACE[®] Early Childhood Screen III training (session information can be found on the [Nevada Registry Training Calendar](#) or by reaching out to your QRIS coach). 2. Set up your BRIANCE[®] Online Management System (OMS) account. There is a one hour recorded training to complete before you create your program's account. The link to that video is: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/5155520256267114499>. After viewing you can set your account by submitting an [OMS Request Form](#). 3. Order BRIGNACE[®] Early Childhood Screen III materials. QRIS grant funds can be used to purchase these materials. More details can be found on the BRIGNACE[®] Nevada [website](#) and by speaking to your QRIS coach.

Programs that have already been rated at least once and are in Initial Coaching or Maintenance cycles are required to screen children annually. The percentage of students screened correspond to a star rating and are as follows:

Two Star : 50% of enrolled children have been screened annually using the BRIGNACE[®] Early Childhood Screen III and entered into the OMS

Three Star : 60% of enrolled children have been screened annually using the BRIGNACE[®] Early Childhood Screen III and entered into the OMS

Four Star : 70% of enrolled children have been screened annually using the BRIGNACE[®] Early Childhood Screen III and entered into the OMS

Five Star : 90% of enrolled children have been screened annually using the BRIGNACE[®] Early Childhood Screen III and entered into the OMS

Group Size and Ratio

What: The group size refers to the number of children in the group. The ratio refers to the number of adults in the room in relation to the number of children in the classroom. QRIS has a stricter group size and ratio requirement than child care licensing. Our group size and ratios are

aligned with National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The QRIS Group Size and Ratios can be seen in the tables below.

Age	QRIS Group Size
Birth but less than 15 months	8
12 months but less than 28 months	12
21 months but less than 3 years (36 months)	12
30 months but less than 4 years (48 months)	18
4 years but less than 6 years	20
Kindergarten	24
Mixed age preschool (2.5 – 5 years) (*No more than four children between the ages of 30 months and 36 months may be enrolled <i>and</i> the ratios within group size for the predominant age group apply. If infants or toddlers are in a mixed-age group, the ratio for the youngest child applies.)	18 or 20 (Depending on majority of children in the group)

Age	QRIS Ratio
Birth but less than 15 months	1:4
12 months but less than 28 months	1:5
21 months but less than 3 years (36 months)	1:6
30 months but less than 4 years (48 months)	1:9
4 years but less than 6 years	1:10
Kindergarten	1:12

Why: Quality interactions between children and early childhood professionals are at the heart of quality early childhood education. The best outcomes for students are linked to quality interactions. In order to ensure these quality interactions, it is vital to keep the both group size and ratios of teachers to children low.

How: Programs will need to submit a Group Size and Ratio Worksheet for each of their classrooms and a Group Size and Ratio Summary (including their full current enrollment) for review at the time of their rating. The worksheets can be accessed through your QRIS coach or by reaching out to qris@doe.nv.gov.

The Environment Rating Scales (ERS) AKA ECERS 3 & ITERS 3 –

What: ERS scales are designed to assess process quality in an early childhood or school age care group. The scales view child development from a comprehensive, or global, point of view, examining a wide variety of areas that all contribute to positive child development. In order to provide care and education that will permit children to experience a high quality of life while helping them develop their abilities, a quality program must provide for the three basic needs of all children:

- Protection of their health and safety
- Supporting and guiding social/emotional development
- Opportunities for intellectual and language stimulation and appropriate learning activities

The scales define environment in a broad sense and guide the observer to assess the arrangement of space both indoors and outdoors, the materials and activities offered to the children, the supervision and interactions (including language) that occur in the classroom, and the schedule of the day, including routines and activities. The support offered to parents and staff is also included. *From the Environment Rating Scales website www.ersi.info*

Why: The Nevada QRIS is dedicated to supporting programs in creating and maintaining a high quality environment for children. We use these scales in order to measure a programs overall quality on a large scale.

How: Your program will be assigned a rating period start and end date. Your assessment window will open the first day of the month after your rating period date has ended. (For example, if your rating period is 10/01/2021 - 10/31/2023, than your assessment window will open up on 11/1/2023. You should have all required criteria into easy folio before your assessment window opens. You can reach out to your QRIS coach and/or OELD for more information regarding your assessment. If you would like a staff training for your program to help prepare your teaching staff for the assessment, OELD can facilitate these trainings. Reach out to us if you would like to schedule a training on-site: qris@doe.nv.gov.

Suspension and Expulsion Policy (Four- and Five-Star Level Requirement)

What: For QRIS 4 and 5 star rated child care centers, a documented suspension and expulsion policy is required to be included in both the **Parent Handbook** and the **Employment Handbook**. For credit, programs must document that their policy is in alignment with the [State of Nevada Policy Statement on Expulsion and Suspension in Early Childhood Settings](#).

Why: Nevada aims to prevent children from being expelled, suspended, or excluded in all early childhood settings. Expelling a child is the most severe punishment a school can enforce. A high quality program should have a suspension and expulsion policy that supports all children in their program.

How: NDE's statement (link above) provides the guidelines to creating your program's policy. To meet this requirement, programs should consider professional development for their staff, program-wide strategies, utilizing supportive community services (NEIS, Child Find, etc.), and engaging with the families throughout. There are many supports to help you with this process! Ask your QRIS Coach or email OELD at qris@doe.nv.edu.

National Accreditation (Five Star Level Requirement)

What: Centers striving for a 5 star rating must show proof they are accredited by an approved national accrediting body. The QRIS approved accreditation programs are [NAEYC](#), [NECPA](#), [NAC](#) and [ACSI](#).

Why: Accreditation is a process with a goal of improving the quality of early learning programs. Achieving national accreditation is rigorous process which requires a child care program to meet standards that far exceed state and county licensing regulatory requirements. Research has demonstrated that accreditation positively impacts early childhood program quality, including benefits to children, families, and staff.

How: Uploading a copy of the center's current accreditation certificate to Easy Folio will meet this criterion.