



Delaware QRIS Revision Process Timeline

March 2020

Revision Process Timeline

Timing	Revision Activities	Meetings of the State Advisory Council	External Stakeholder Input on Revision Process
Spring 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the State Advisory Council Identify and Secure a Vendor to Oversee the Revision Process 	●	●
Summer 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify Roles & Responsibilities and Goals & Intended Outcomes of Revision Process Develop a Theory of Change for the Revision 	●	●
Fall 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalization of a Timeline for the Revision Process Begin Standards Revision Process 	●	
Winter 2019-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing standards revision work Begin discussion of the Use of an Observation Tool as Part of the QRIS 	●	
Spring 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing revision of the Stars standards Review the use of an observation tool as part of Stars Finalization of a revision process for verification criteria Stakeholder feedback on revised Stars standards 	●	●
Summer 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Revised Stars Standards Consideration of alternative pathways Revision of verification criteria Finalization of roll-out process for revised system Finalization of standards, verification criteria, and points allocations Revisions to the management of Stars as needed 	●	●
Fall 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot of revised Stars Finalization of the Stars based on results of the pilot 	●	●
Winter 2020-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new programs entering Stars are required to verify and meet revised standards. Existing participants verify star level under new system upon expiration of their current star level. 		

About the Revision Process

Delaware Stars for Early Success (Delaware Stars) was created in 2008 as a response to the national trend of implementing Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) and the local desire to ensure the availability of high-quality early learning programs to all children. Initially a building block QRIS model, Delaware Stars was revised in 2012 to be a hybrid model QRIS with required observation components. Delaware Stars was last revised in 2014 as a result of Delaware receiving a Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant. That revision's primary emphasis was on the implementation of six essential standards in Delaware's hybrid model QRIS.

Also as a result of the Early Learning Challenge grant, Delaware contracted with an independent evaluator to conduct an evaluation of Delaware Stars. The project entailed a series of interrelated research tasks designed to provide objective and rigorous empirical evidence of the extent to which rating tiers reflect relevant differences in the quality of home- and center-based programs and whether the system is operating effectively in terms of technical assistance (TA), financial support, and other features.

The independent evaluation was completed in 2016 and resulted in several recommendations, including:

- Learn from other QRIS validation studies;
- Consider further refinements to the Delaware Stars rating structure;
- Strengthen the marketing of Delaware Stars to families; and
- Enhance administrative data systems to support ongoing system monitoring and quality improvement.

The Delaware Department of Education (DDOE), Office of Early Learning (OEL) began the process of further revising Delaware Stars at the end of 2017. The initial phase of the revision included the formation of a leadership team to oversee the revision and several modes of data collection focused primarily on the collection of stakeholder feedback. Data collection methods/resources include:

- Listening sessions/focus groups, conducted by the Mid-Atlantic Comprehensive Center;
- Community conversations, conducted by OEL and partners; and
- Survey of Providers and Stakeholders, conducted by the University of Delaware.

OEL gleaned guiding principles for the revision from the data collection process. They are:

1. The existing structure of Delaware Stars shows improvement in children's executive functioning;
2. Multiple indicators of quality exist, including child-level outcomes and quality of staff, environments, and interactions;
3. Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) must be reflected in all levels of Delaware Stars; and
4. Equity must be woven throughout the revised Delaware Stars.

In the spring of 2019, OEL partnered with AnLar, LLC, a Washington, DC-based educational consulting firm to support the revision process. OEL, in partnership with AnLar, has developed the above process and proposed timeline for the revision of the state's QRIS.

The process will include ongoing activities for stakeholder input and regular meetings with a statewide advisory council to provide feedback on the revision process and proposed changes.

For additional information about the Stars revision process and the project timeline, please contact John Fisher-Klein at John.Fisher-Klein@doe.k12.de.us.