

# California Advances Comprehensive Early Learning System Reform



California is making important progress in creating a high-quality early learning system that will get children ready to learn and help close the achievement gap before they start school. Senate Bill 1629 (Steinberg) – passed by the state Legislature and signed by Governor

Schwarzenegger in 2008 – established a committee to develop the policy and implementation plan for a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for early learning programs in California. California's QRIS process will lay the groundwork for maximizing current and future investments in an early learning system that raises the quality of early education programs and improves children's school readiness.



The process will also ensure California is competitive for the Early Learning Challenge Fund, a competitive grant proposal that challenges states to develop effective, innovative models to raise quality through high standards, incentivizing excellence and focusing on outcomes.

## Early Learning Quality Improvement System Planning Process

The Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee is a state body that is developing a proposed policy and implementation plan to improve the quality of early education programs. This includes a quality rating scale to help parents make informed decisions about programs for their children, and a funding model to help existing and future programs reach and maintain higher levels of quality.

More information about California's Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee, including the interim report, a list of committee members, highlights of past meetings and agenda for upcoming meetings, is available on the Advisory Committee website at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/sb1629committee.asp>.



In February 2010, AB 2592 (Buchanan) was introduced, which places into statute an Early Learning Quality Rating Scale (QRS) and charges the California Department of Education (CDE) with its implementation based on the recommendations of the ELQIS Advisory Committee.


## What is a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)?

- QRIS is a systemic approach to supporting and rewarding early care and education programs that provide higher quality and therefore better child outcomes.
- Twenty one states are already operating a statewide QRIS.
- Critical elements of a QRIS include:
  - standards that lay out the key research-based indicators of quality in early childhood settings;
  - accountability to ensure that early learning programs meet quality standards;
  - program and provider outreach and support, including training, technical assistance and mentoring;
  - financial incentives to encourage programs to pursue higher levels of quality; and
  - parent and consumer education about the quality of early learning programs, potentially through a five-star quality rating scale.



For more information, visit [www.preschoolcalifornia.org](http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org)



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