

2015 QRIS NATIONAL MEETING: **Higher Ground – Taking Quality to Scale**



July 15-17, 2015



Join us to exchange, debate, create, inform and problem solve in our national learning community!

Dates: July 15-17, 2015 (begins at 1 pm on July 15 and concludes at 12 pm on July 17)

Registration Page: <http://buildqrisreg.org/>

Location: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center
201 Waterfront Street
National Harbor, MD 20745
301.965.4000
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasgn-gaylord-national-resort-and-convention-center/>

Draft Agenda Overview

Wednesday, July 15

1 - 3 pm

Welcome and Opening

Plenary Session Discussion: Taking Quality to Scale

What does taking "quality to scale" mean and is it viable? Is the goal to make every early learning program a high quality one or assure only that every at risk child is in a high quality program? Does quality mean we are shooting for the optimum level of quality or a more moderate level that is attainable and affordable given limited resources? What is needed within key system components in order to attain quality at scale and what is needed from a state policy perspective? Are there economies of scale that can make this goal more affordable? A panel of state and national leaders will debate and probe the potential for taking quality to scale.

3 - 4:30 pm

Breakout Sessions (up to 11 sessions)

5 - 7 pm

Sponsors' Networking Reception

This reception is open to all registered participants and is an opportunity to network with your colleagues and meet the generous sponsors of this year's QRIS National Meeting.

Featured: Teachstone

5 Star: Branagh Information Group

3 Star: Community Playthings, Kaplan Early Learning Company, Pearson, Teachers College Press, WELS Systems Foundation

2 Star: Brookes Publishing, Dole Packaged Foods, Public Consulting Group

1 Star: CCA Global Partners, Discount School Supply, Lakeshore Learning Materials, Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)

Interested in serving as a sponsor? Contact Meghan Robinson at mrobinson@buildinitiative.org.

Thursday, July 16

- 7:30 am Continental breakfast for all registered participants
- 8:30 - 10 am **Plenary Session: Multiple Perspectives on Access to High Quality Early Care and Education**
Access to high quality programs is a key goal of the recently reauthorized CCDF. This plenary session will examine access from three perspectives: what we know about families, what we know about program participation in QRIS, and what we know about different data options for measuring and tracking access. These three perspectives will be used to encourage innovations in how state QRIS are planning for and tracking the results of their efforts to improve access to high quality early care and education for all families.
- 10:15 - 11:45 am Breakout Sessions (up to 12 sessions)
- 12 - 1 pm Luncheon for all registered participants
- 1 - 2:30 pm **Plenary Session: The Early Childhood Profession We All Want: Creating the System We Need**
Increasing pressure is being placed on early childhood education programs to provide consistently high quality early learning experiences, while at the same time the value of our contribution to children's learning and development too often is undervalued. Structuring early childhood education as a professional field of practice is gaining momentum as a systemic solution. It offers a way for unifying the field around common purpose, addressing the field's uneven performance, and bringing increased recognition to the field's practitioners. What will be required for early childhood education to be recognized as a profession? What hard choices need to be addressed to achieve professional status and assure a professional workforce that is reflective of the diversity of the children we are serving? What core values are essential to early childhood education's identity as a profession? What role can and should state QRIS play to achieve these aspirations?
- 2:45 - 3:45 pm Breakout Sessions (up to 12 sessions)
- 4 - 5:30 pm Breakout Sessions (up to 12 sessions)
- 6 pm **Teachstone Reception**
All registered participants are invited to attend a special reception hosted by Teachstone, Featured Sponsor of the QRIS National Meeting.

Friday, July 17

- 7:30 am Continental breakfast for all registered participants
- 8:30 - 10 am Breakout Sessions (up to 12 sessions)
- 10:15 am **Plenary Session: High Needs Children - How Are We Building a System of Systems to Meet Their Multiple Needs?**
There is a lot of discussion around child outcomes and QRIS but the reality is that high quality early learning is only one component that is needed in assuring improved child outcomes. How are we doing in creating systems that link to the children at greatest risk? How are we linking high quality early learning to child welfare and housing, prioritizing children who are homeless and supporting families? How are we connecting together the pieces of the systems puzzle?
- 12 pm Meeting concludes