



MA Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) ERS Data and Program/Provider Support

January 2016 Webinar for the Early Education and Care Field

January 27, 2016



**MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care**

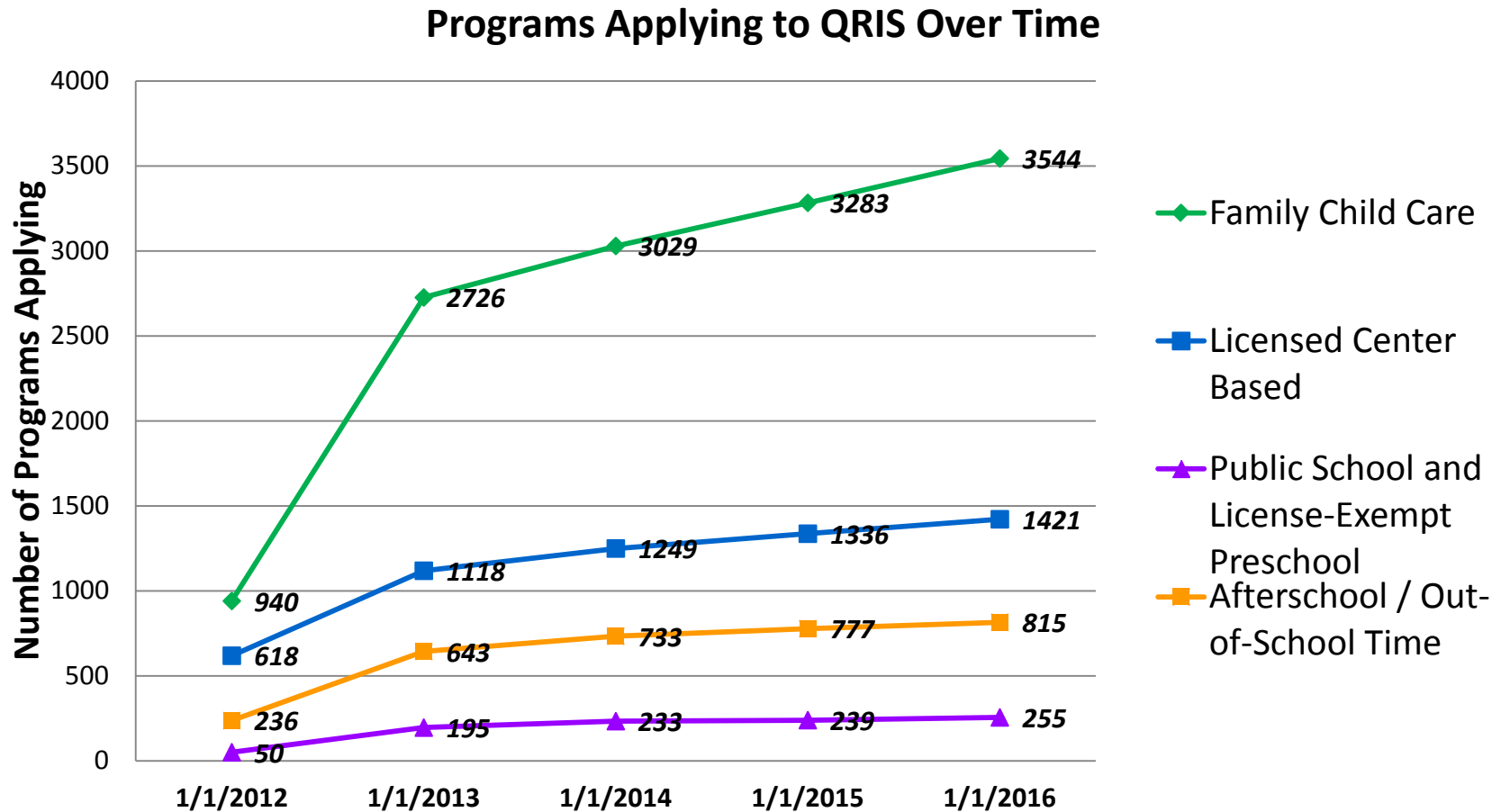


Agenda

- QRIS Participation Data
- Data from Reliable Rater Visits: What Does it Tell Us?
- Next Steps for QRIS
- Additions to the QRIS Toolbox
- Questions from the Survey



Engagement in the MA QRIS Continues to Increase



*Not a unique count. Programs and Providers in upper tiers may have more than one application.
Does not include programs that have since closed.
In 2012, providers receiving child care subsidies were required to participate in QRIS.*



POLL



In what Program type do you currently work?

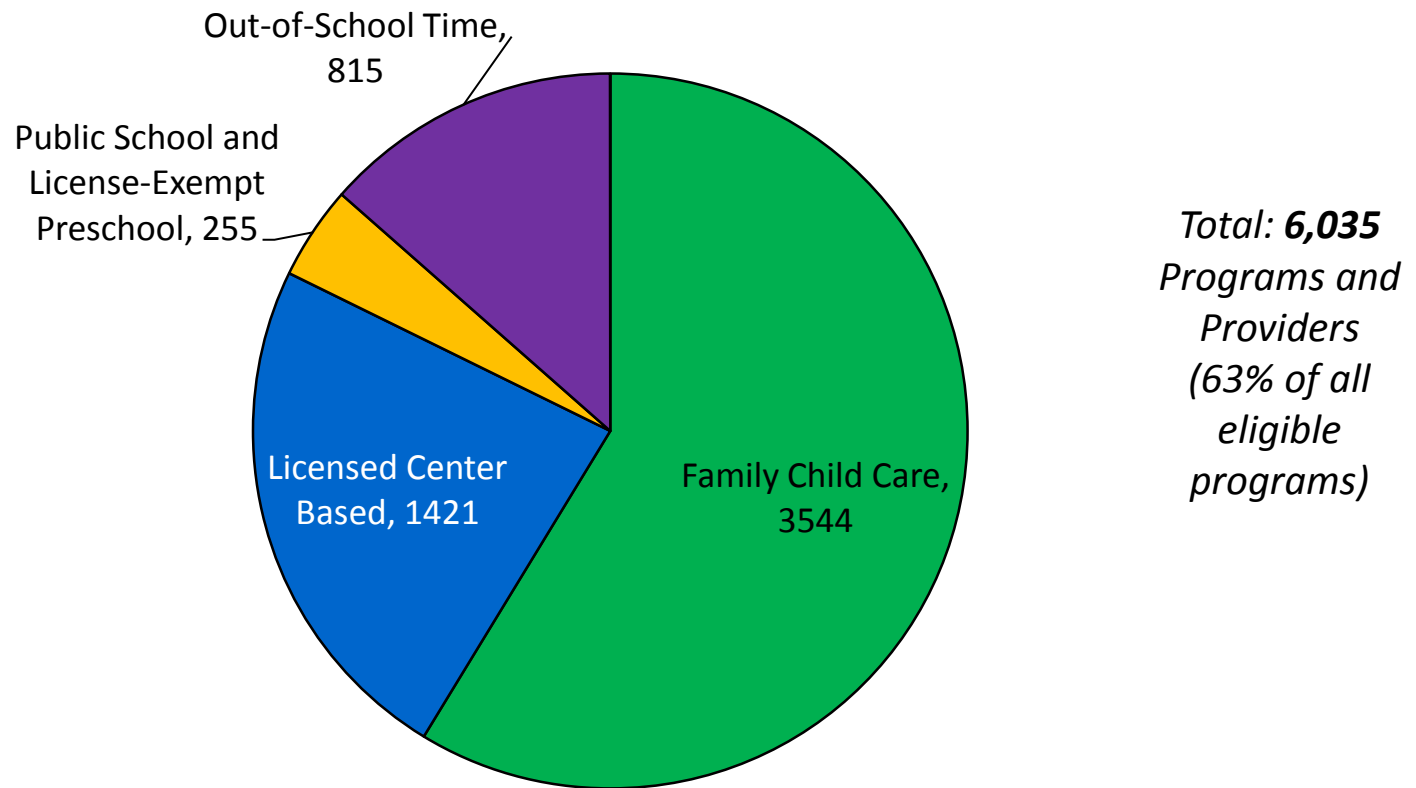
- Family Child Care
- Center-based
- Afterschool and Out-of-School Time program
- Public School Preschool
- I don't work in a program





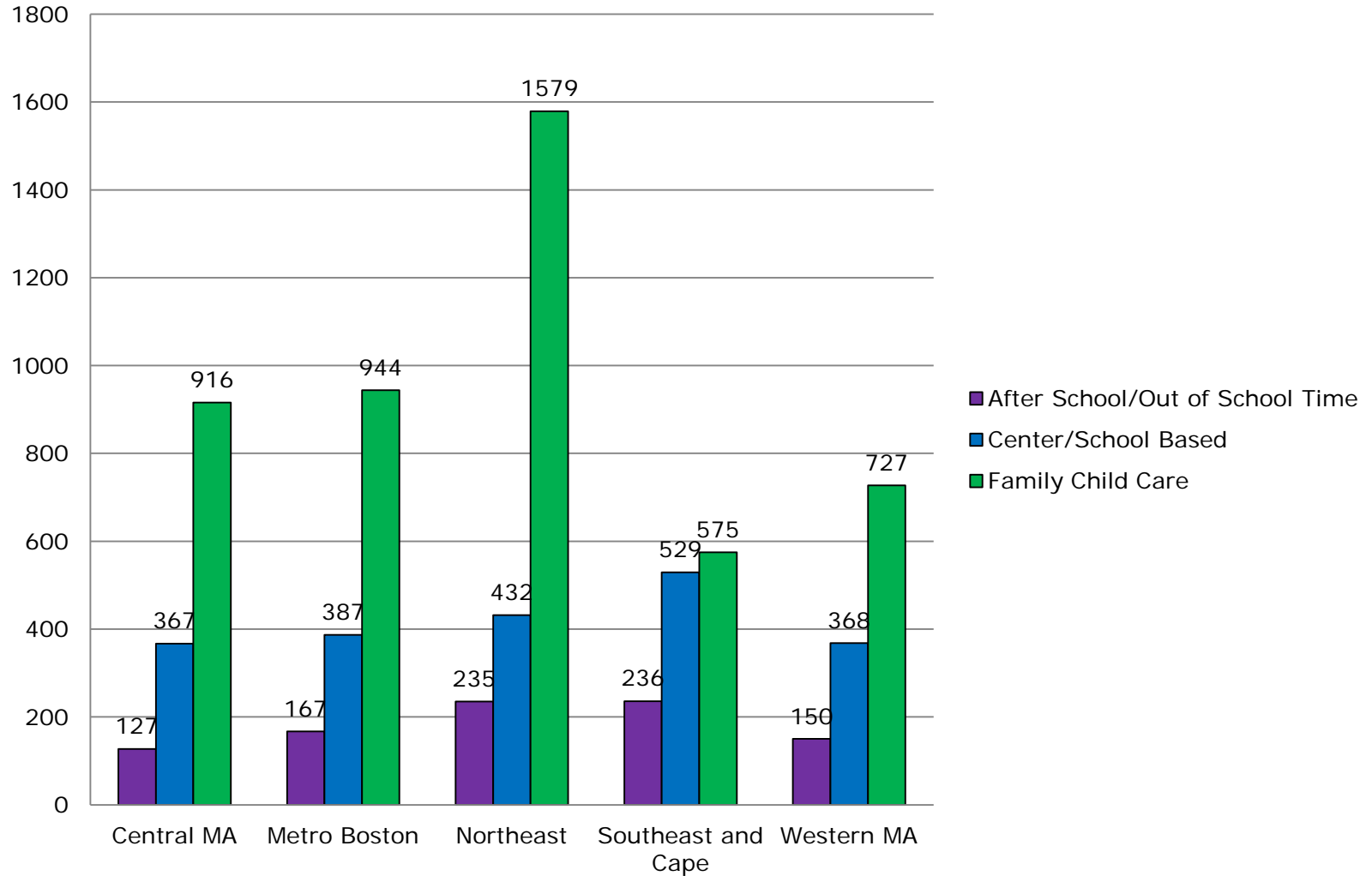
Current QRIS Program Participation

The MA QRIS is open to **all programs** across the mixed-delivery system:



Data from December 2015, unique count

QRIS Participation by Region





POLL



What is your role in your program?

- FCC Owner (licensee) or FCC Assistant
- Director/Administrator
- Educator
- FCC System Personnel
- Consultant

Reliable Rater Visits, July-December, 2015

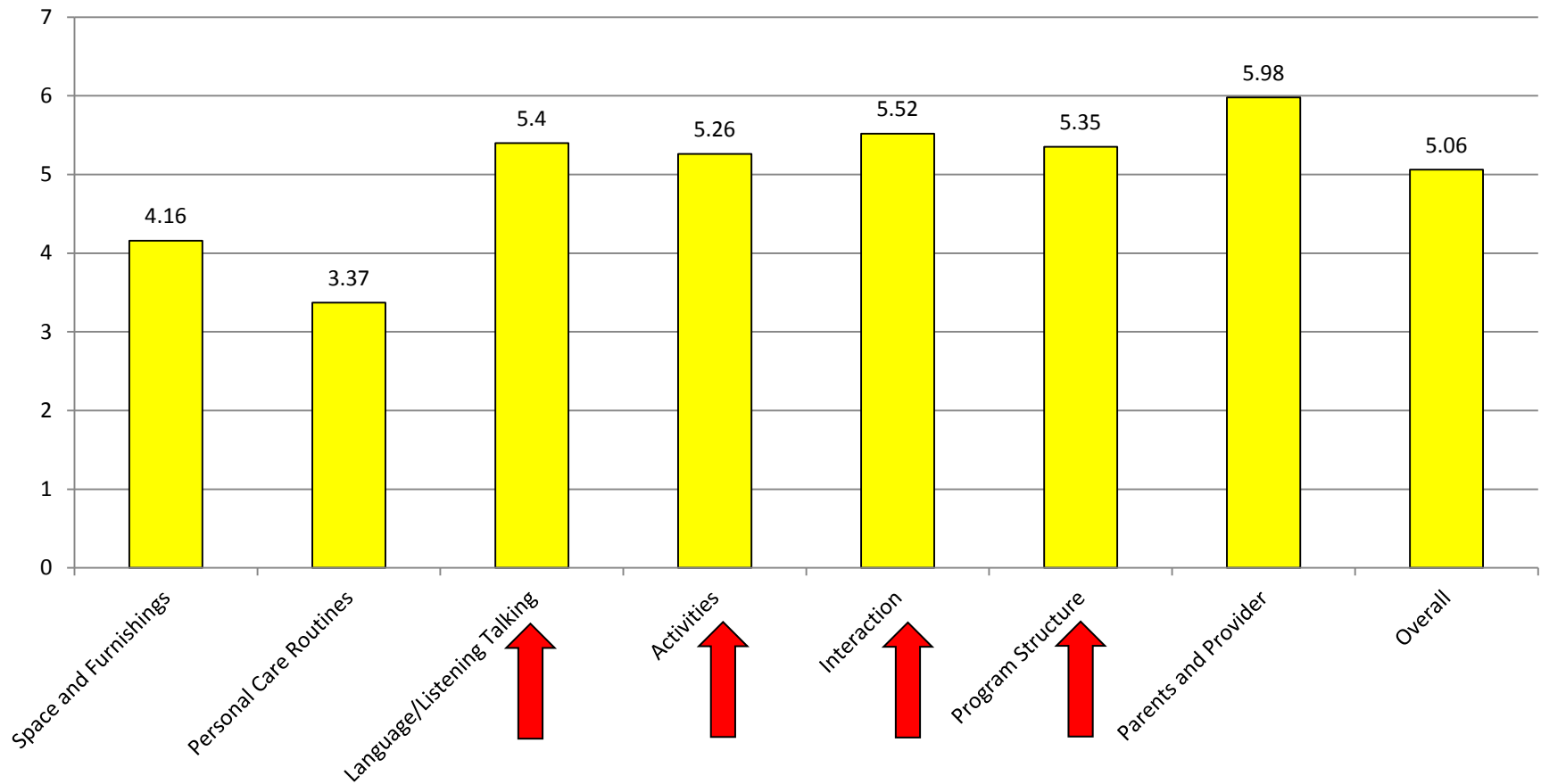
What the Data Tells Us?



Reliable Rater Program Observation Averages, July-December, 2015



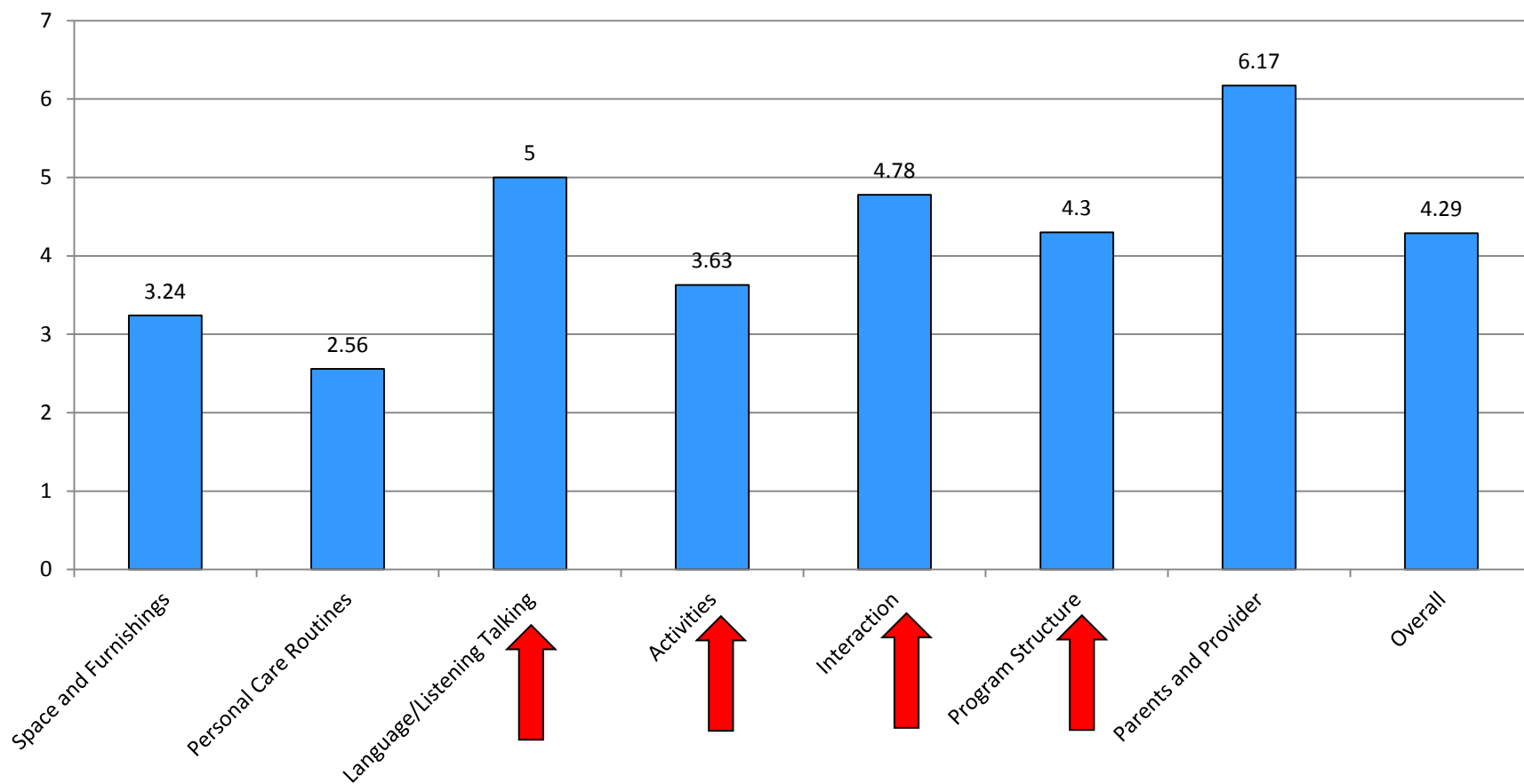
Preschool Classrooms



Reliable Rater Program Observation Averages, July-December, 2015



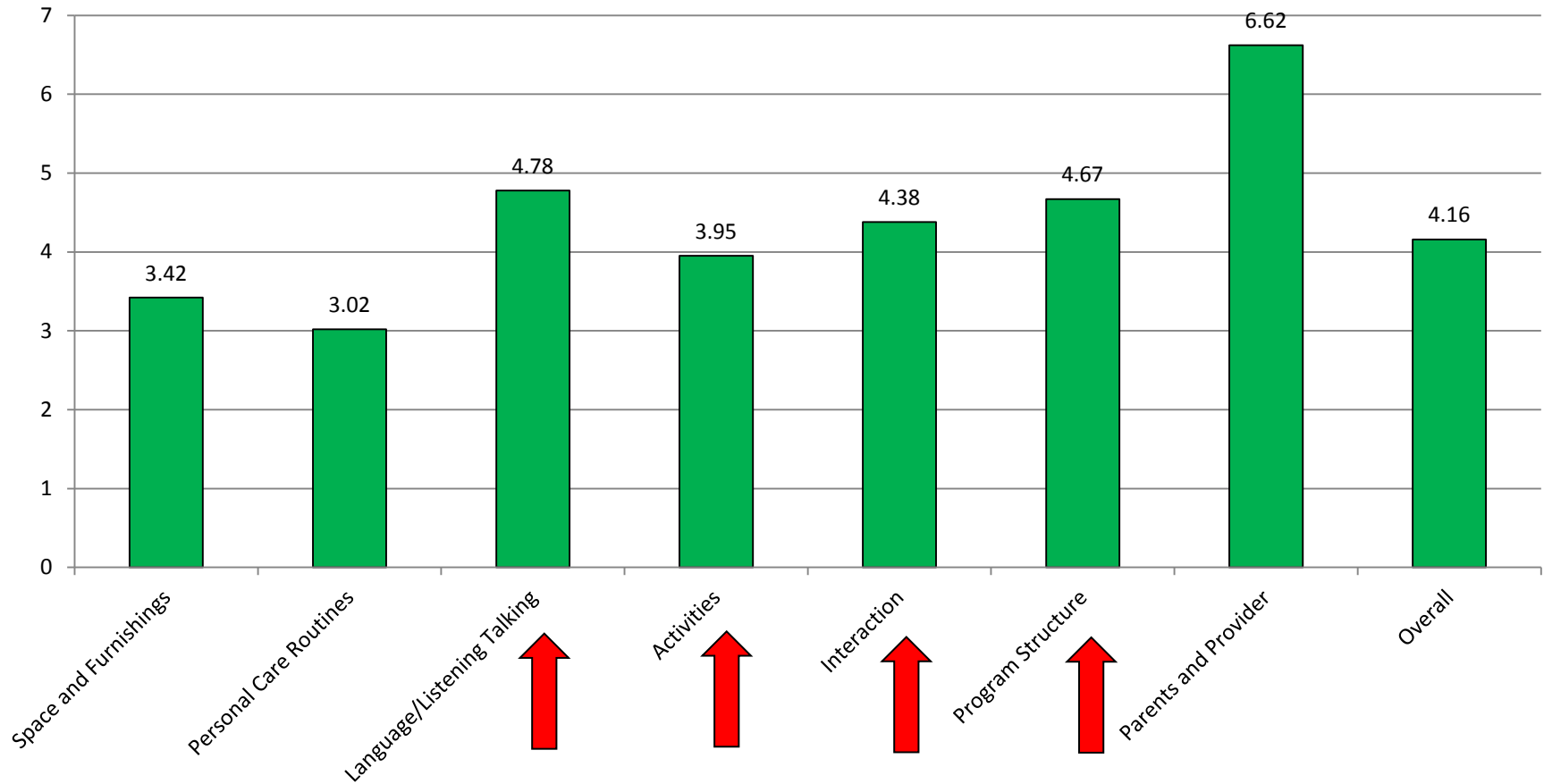
Infant / Toddler Classrooms



Reliable Rater Program Observation Averages, July-December, 2015



Family Child Care





POLL



What are your program's areas of strengths (choose all that apply)?

My program/program staff:

- has a cozy space for children
- greets families, and maintains on-going communication
- has many different materials (dramatic play, art, blocks)
- encourages children to talk during free play/group activity
- help children develop appropriate social behavior

What the Data Tells Us, Areas of Strength



Areas of Strength

- Language and Reasoning / Listening and Talking
 - Books and Pictures
 - Encouraging children to communicate
 - Informal use of language
- Interaction
 - Free play
 - Group time
 - Provisions with children for disabilities
- Parents and Staff
 - Provisions for parents
 - Staff interaction and cooperation
 - Supervision and evaluation of staff
 - Opportunities for professional growth





POLL



What are your program's areas of potential growth?

My program/program staff need :

- more music and movement materials
- more involvement with children when they use the computer
- more cushioning under outdoor play equipment
- more space for storage of materials & children's belongings
- shorter transitions and less time in whole group activities

What the Data Tells Us, Areas for Potential Growth



Areas for Potential Growth

- Space and Furnishings
 - Furniture for Routine Care, Play, and Learning
 - Space for Gross Motor Play
- Personal Care Routines
 - Health practices related to meals, nap, and hand washing; more cubby space needed
 - Safety Practices, largely due to safety issues in the outdoor gross motor space
- Listening and Talking
 - Using Books: books need to be accessible for “much of the day
 - Informal book reading should be observed
- Activities
 - Much of the day” criterion
 - Playground space impacts the Active Physical Play item
- Program Structure
 - Free Play: lack of free play and long transitions
 - Schedule: lack of free play and a lack of outside time
- Parents and Staff
 - Provisions for personal needs of staff: a lack of break time for teachers



QRIS: Next Steps



Next Steps: QRIS Revisions



Complete QRIS Validation Study report and **share findings** with stakeholders

Create draft of **revised QRIS model**, which will be informed by national research, the MA QRIS Validation Study results, feedback from QRIS Working Groups, and other relevant information

Convene a **QRIS Advisory Committee** to provide feedback on recommended QRIS revisions





POLL



How long have the educators/FCC assistants worked at your program?

- All have worked at the program more than 5 years
- Most have worked at the program more than 5 years
- More than half have worked at the program more than 5 years
- Very few have worked at the program more than 5 years
- I don't work in a program (consultant, coach, etc)

Next Steps: Workforce Qualifications and Professional Development Analysis



Analyze Validation Study data to explore the **relationship** between early education teachers' participation in (a) **formal education**, (b) **professional development/training**, and (c) their early education work **experience** with:

- **Observed classroom quality**
- **Child outcomes**

Examination of the relationship between **teacher turnover** and observed classroom quality will also be included in the analysis.



Next Steps: QRIS Field Survey



Repeat **field survey** of early education and care providers:

- Target participation of **400-600 providers**
- Survey will **measure changes** from the QRIS Field Survey completed in 2013



QRIS: Additions to the Toolbox

- **Guidance Document for the QRIS Standards**
- **Guidance Document for the CQIP**





POLL



Have you used any of the documents/guidance in the QRIS toolbox?

- Yes
- No
- First time I've heard about the toolbox

Questions for the EEC Program Quality Unit...



Questions from the ECE Field



QRIS REQUIREMENTS

Q Are IPDPs still required for all educators?

Yes, all educators are required to have an IPDP.

Q What elements do you look for in accepting/approving an IPDP?

IPDPs should be developed in conjunction with the Supervisor, and address the identified professional development needs of that teacher and development of their competency along the initial-level of the continuum of the core competencies. The IPDP must also address the actions and timelines that need to be met in order to move to the next level of the QRIS.

Questions from the ECE Field



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Q Does all professional development to support QRIS standards/criteria require formal training?

Only those criteria that require professional development as stated in the standard/criteria need to be formal training; other types of professional development to support growth, practice and understanding do not need to be for CEUs.

Examples of those that do not need CEUs are training in the Measurement Tools (ERS, BAS/PAS, CLASS/ARNETT, APT). This type of training is important to assist programs and educators in using the tools, but does not need to be formal training.

PD facts can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/edu/docs/eec/qris/20140220-qris-prof-devl-fact-sheet.pdf>

Questions from the ECE Field



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Q What does EEC accept for formal training?

EEC defines formal training as that which meets the guidelines for Continuing Education Units (CEUs), Competency Education Credits (CECs) or college coursework as stated within EEC Professional Development Policy P-EEC-13 for regulations.

The policy can be found at

http://www.eec.state.ma.us/docs1/regs_policies/20120904-policy-professional-development.pdf



Questions from the ECE Field

QRIS LEVEL 3

Q When I apply for level 3, do I need to wait for a reliable rater visit before submitting my application??

No, you will first submit your level 3 application via the QRIS Program Manager including all:

- required documentation
- measurement tools self-assessment scores
- Professional development requirements (PQ Registry should be *UP TO DATE*)

An EEC Program Quality Specialist will verify your documentation and upon completion, will schedule a level 3 site visit to your program.

Questions from the ECE Field



QRIS APPLICATION RENEWAL AND EXPIRATION

Q Once you are awarded a level (for example - level 2), will educators need to "update" or renew level 2 before moving on to level 3?

Currently our online application system does not allow programs to update their applications. We are working towards a new online system. Once that is in place, we will issue guidance *renewal* processes.

Q Do program applications have an "expiration date" for each level?

Our online application system does not allow programs to update their applications. Once that is in place, we will issue guidance on *expiration* dates.

Questions from the ECE Field



QRIS VALIDATION STUDY

Q Why did the QRIS validation study only involve center-based programs?

The study participants represented all programs across the state. Because our community center based programs were the only program type that had enough participants in the upper tiers, the study focused solely on this group of providers.

Q Did the Validation Study use data from Teaching Strategies Gold online ?

No. The study utilized specific assessments to measure child outcomes. These tools include:

- Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, 4th edition (PPVT-4)
- Two subtests of the Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Achievement, 3rd edition (WJ-III)
- The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Preschoolers, 2nd edition (DECA P2)
- The Preschool Learning Behavior Scale (PLBS)
- The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Toddlers (DECA-T)

Questions from the ECE Field



CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES

Q Do providers have to be at QRIS level 2 or higher to receive vouchers?

Currently, the requirement for voucher funding is participation in QRIS at level 1 or higher. There is a rate increase for programs with infants and toddler at level 2 or higher.

EEC is uncertain at this time if there will be additional QRIS requirements for voucher participation in the future.

Q Where will EEC implement tiered funding?

EEC is currently considering all options for funding child care subsidies. No decisions have yet been made with regard to tiered funding.

We encourage all programs to engage in a process of *continuous quality improvement* to ensure they are providing the best quality care for children, and positioning themselves for all EEC funding opportunities.

Questions from the ECE Field



CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Q When do I need to be at level 2 and level 3?

QRIS represents a framework for *Continuous Quality Improvement*. Progression to the next level is based on the strengths and needs of the program or provider. Although EEC does not require programs to move up in the system in a specific time frame, some EEC Grants and EEC Contracts DO have specified dates and level requirements in order to contractual obligations. An example of this is UPK programs.

Again- we encourage all programs to engage in a process of *continuous quality improvement* to ensure they are providing the best quality care for children, and positioning themselves for all EEC funding opportunities.



Questions from the ECE Field

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Q What's happening with the Health Consultant Site Visit requirement for Level 2?

While EEC licensing regulations have not changed, the QRIS requirement to have an annual Health Consultant site visit has been moved from Level 2 to Level 3 for all program types.

If you need assistance finding a Health Care Consultant, please contact your regional Program Quality Health Advisor .

Q I heard that there are some new QRIS Health and Safety trainings. What is happening with this?

The QRIS Health and Safety training modules will be available in the spring (2016). If your program is interested in piloting these trainings, please contact your regional Program Quality Health Advisor.

Questions from the ECE Field



QRIS SUPPORT

Q I am Center Director who is new to managing QRIS. In spite of the abundance of information about it, I feel lost in the actual process, time frames, and specific requirements. I've heard I can get a coach to guide me. How do I obtain one?

The Educator and Provider Support Grantees (EPS) provide information on QRIS, the CQIP, IPDPs, training, coaching and mentoring. They are a great source of all types of support.

Information on your EPS Grantee can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/edu/birth-grade-12/early-education-and-care/workforce-and-professional-development/educator-and-provider-support-eps-grant.html>

Q Are there introductory trainings on the QRIS?

The EEC Regional Program Quality Specialists conduct introductory trainings on the QRIS, as well as some of the EPS Grantees. EEC is working to develop new online introductory trainings for different program types at each level.



Questions from the ECE Field

QRIS IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Q Will there be another grant this year?

Yes. This year the grant will focus on supporting infants and toddlers.

Q How do I find information about the QRIS Improvement Grant?

Information about current funding opportunities can be found on EEC's website. Because this is a competitive grant, EEC can not assist providers with specific questions about the grant. All questions should be directed to The United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley.

gris@supportunitedway.org

Questions from the ECE Field



OUT OF SCHOOL TIME

Q What is the plan to increase access to trainings for the APT?

EEC is currently collaborating with DESE and NIOST (the developers of the APT) to provide training and coaching on the APT. They will be working with entire programs to train their staff. If interested in participating, please contact Phillip Steigman at philip.steigman@MassMail.State.MA.US

PUBLIC SCHOOL

Q When will the public school QRIS standards be released as a separate program type in the QRIS?

The QRIS Public School Working Group is actively reviewing the standards and working on recommendations for revisions.

EEC also recently completed a professional development alignment project that will inform these standards and requirements. Stay tuned!

Questions from the ECE Field



COMMUNICATIONS

Q Are there documents explaining QRIS to families?

EEC is working with a communications vendor to develop materials that programs will be able to share with families and their community. Stay tuned!

Q Is there a press release that could be used by my program to share my QRIS ratings with the newspaper?

EEC currently does not publicize ratings. However, programs may choose to share their ratings with families and the community. As EEC moves towards sharing ratings, those types of materials, such as a press release, will be developed and shared with programs.



To Learn More About MA QRIS

- Join the MA QRIS On-line Learning Community: QRIScommunity.org
- Visit the EEC website <http://www.mass.gov/edu/birth-grade-12/early-education-and-care/provider-and-program-administration/quality-rating-and-improvement-system-qris.html>
- QRIS General Information – General QRIS policy and standard questions, as well as technical questions about the on-line QRIS application and self-assessment may be directed to the EEC Helpdesk eechelpdesk@massmail.state.ma.us
- QRIS Program Quality Improvement Grants - Questions about the QRIS Program Quality Improvement Grants may be directed to the United Way QRIS team QRIS@supportunitedway.org



QRIS Email List

Sign up for EEC's QRIS email list! We will send news, updates and information about the MA-QRIS!

Sign up using any of the following methods:

- Click on this link:
<http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=joxs7vqab&p=oi&m=1117426113993&sit=z7vdssyib&f=3ef7bca4-6d3a-45d7-ae20-50695f871d6a>
- Text “QRIS” to 22828
- Scan this QR code with your smartphone!





POLL



If people view the webinar as a group and did not sign in under their own name, how do they ensure they receive a participant certificate?

- Email Pam Roux
- Email their PQ Specialist
- Assume Pam is psychic and knows they are on the webinar
- Respond to the SurveyMonkey to submit their information

Participant Certificate

- Participants will receive a certificate via email by **February 5, 2016**.
- Participants who viewed the webinar together in a group (and did not sign in under their own name) may click on the survey link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JCQYJWT> by **February 3, 2016** to receive their certificates.
 - Responses received after this time **will not** receive certificates
 - Must fill out all questions

Webinar Materials and Recording

- Participants will receive the materials and the link to the recorded webinar via email by **February 5, 2015**.
- **NOTE:** recording is for informational purposes only; viewing the webinar will not result in a participant certificate!





QRIS Program Quality Specialists

REGION	EEC STAFF	PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS
1	Diane Wiles Program Quality Specialist	(413) 881-1547	Diane.Wiles@massmail.state.ma.us	1441 Main Street Suite 230 Springfield, MA 01103
2	Amy Whitehead-Pleaux Program Quality Specialist	(508) 461-1446	Amy.Whitehead-Pleaux@MassMail.state.ma.us	10 Austin Street Worcester, MA 01609
3	Jody Dominguez Program Quality Specialist	(978) 826-1336	Jody.Dominguez@MassMail.state.ma.us	360 Merrimack Street Building 9, 3rd Floor Lawrence, MA 01843
5	To Be Announced Program Quality Specialist		Please email EECQRIS@MassMail.state.ma.us for support	1 Washington Street Suite 20 Taunton, MA 02780
6	To Be Announced Program Quality Specialist		Please email EECQRIS@MassMail.state.ma.us for support	1250 Hancock Street, Suite 120-S Quincy, MA 02169



QRIS Health Advisors

EEC/DPH Collaboration	PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS
Edwin Moralez QRIS Health Advisor Region 1	(413) 881-1546	Edwin.Moralez@MassMail.state.ma.us	1441 Main Street Suite 230 Springfield, MA 01103
Lila Coverstone QRIS Health Advisor Region 2 and 5	(508) 461-1460	Lila.Coverstone@MassMail.State.ma.us	10 Austin Street Worcester, MA 01609
Maureen Waitt QRIS Health Advisor Region 3 and 6	(978) 826-1319	Maureen.Waitt@massmail.state.ma.us	360 Merrimack Street Building 9, 3rd Floor Lawrence, MA 01843
Karen Hughes Early Childhood Health Specialist	(617) 624-5964	Karen.Hughes@MassMail.state.ma.us	Dept of Public Health Div for Perinatal, Early Childhood 250 Washington Street 5th Floor Boston, MA 02108

QRIS Central Office Support



	EEC STAFF	PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS
Central Office Support	Philip Steigman Program Quality Specialist (and Region 3 Support)	(617) 988-7822	Philip.Steigman@MassMail.state.ma.us	51 Sleeper Street 4th Floor Boston, MA 02210
Central Office Support	Gwen Alexander Associate Commissioner for Program Quality Supports	(617) 988-7812	Gwen.Alexander@MassMail.state.ma.us	51 Sleeper Street 4th Floor Boston, MA 02210
Central Office Support	Pam Roux Educator Provider Support - Workforce Development/ PQ Registry	(617) 988-7820	Pam.Roux@MassMail.state.ma.us	51 Sleeper Street 4th Floor Boston, MA 02210
Central Office Support	Jay Swanson Policy Analyst – Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Out of School Time	(617) 988-7803	John.Swanson2@MassMail.state.ma.us	51 Sleeper Street 4th Floor Boston, MA 02210
Central Office Support	Evelyn Nellum Policy Analyst, Special Education -Inclusive Preschool Learning Environments	(617) 988-6646	Evelyn.Nellum@MassMail.state.ma.us	51 Sleeper Street 4th Floor Boston, MA 02210

Educator and Provider Support Grantees



REGION	AGENCY	EPS CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
Western MA: Region 1	Preschool Enrichment Team	Kimm Quinlan	413-736-3900 ext.159	KQuinlan@valleyopp.com
Central MA: Region 2	Family Services of Central Massachusetts	Joanne Gravell	508-757-1503 x211	jgravell@cccfscom.org
Northeast MA: Region 3	North Shore Community College	Kathy Gallo	(781-593-6722 x6249	kgallo@northshore.edu
Southeast MA: Region 5	Child Development and Education, Inc.	Elizabeth A. Reedy	508-369-3673	seepp@cdedu.us
Metro Boston: Region 6	ABCD	Donna Jasak	617-348-6314	Donna.Jasak@bostonabcd.org