



Alameda : Contra Costa : Santa Clara  
Santa Cruz : San Francisco : San Mateo



## Partnering with You for High Quality Early Education

Six Bay Area Counties—Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and San Francisco have joined together in a new effort to improve the quality of early care and education programs. With funding through the Federal Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant, these Bay Area counties, along with eleven other counties in California, are piloting a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) with programs serving children with the greatest needs.

### Quality Rating Improvement Systems (QRIS)

Nearly every state in the nation has either launched, or is developing, a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) to improve the quality of early care and education for children. A QRIS helps you to improve your program by measuring your current level of quality against research-backed standards. In California, these standards tie to your program environment, teacher-child ratios, teacher qualifications and teacher-child interactions. Specific tools being used to measure quality include the DRDP, ASQ, CLASS, and ERS.

Once you see how your program is doing in meeting the quality standards, you identify areas where you want to improve and you create a quality improvement plan. Then you will have access to various types of quality improvement resources that can include coaching, training and technical assistance and new professional development opportunities.

### Your Commitment to Quality Matters

As an educator, you play a very important role in setting children on a path to success in their earliest years and in life. When you create a high quality early learning experience for children, you are changing lives.



## The Bay Area QRIS Pilot

The Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant is focused on raising the quality of programs, in a limited number of programs, that serve children with the highest needs. It is an opportunity for you to help to determine what truly works to improve quality. More than 600 sites will participate in the Bay Area QRIS pilot. The experience and the learning that the region gains in working with you and other early childhood professionals will help shape the future direction of quality improvement efforts across the Bay Area.

### Learn More

To learn more about Race to the Top and the quality improvement opportunities in your community contact your local First 5 Commission.

First 5 Alameda  
[www.first5alameda.org](http://www.first5alameda.org)

First 5 Santa Clara  
[www.first5kids.org](http://www.first5kids.org)

First 5 Santa Cruz  
[www.first5scc.org](http://www.first5scc.org)

First 5 San Francisco  
[www.first5sf.org](http://www.first5sf.org)

First 5 Contra Costa  
[www.firstfivecc.org](http://www.firstfivecc.org)

First 5 San Mateo  
[www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/portal/site/first5](http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/portal/site/first5)

### How You Benefit From QRIS

As an educator participating in the first phase of the QRIS pilot in the Bay Area, you are part something new and exciting. The QRIS creates a clear roadmap to success by defining quality and supporting your work as an early childhood professional. As an educator, participation in the QRIS pilot gives you:

- Exposure to the latest research on early childhood development
- Professional development trainings
- Networking opportunities with other early childhood professionals

Your participation in the QRIS gives you a way to communicate your commitment to quality to parents and the broader community in a simple, easy to understand way. For a program, this can mean more stable, or increased enrollment, and a more stable workforce.