



QRIS Site Rating Process Overview

A QRIS is a Statewide system that:

1. Creates a common definition of quality
2. Uses a system of ratings and assessments to help evaluate a provider's current level of quality
3. Coordinates supports and professional development to build on programs' strengths and improve quality

In Santa Clara County, selected sites will go through a three-step QRIS Rating Process that involves (1) completion of a Site Portfolio, (2) a Site Visit, and (3) two assessments.

Step 1: Completion of a Site Portfolio

A Site Portfolio is completed by the Site Administrator or Site Director and submitted to WestEd E3 Institute. The Site Portfolio gives sites the opportunity to self evaluate their program based on the elements in the QRIS Quality Matrix, and provides key program data for site rating and reporting purposes.

Step 2: Site Visit

After a Site Portfolio has been submitted, a WestEd E3 Institute staff member schedules a time to visit your site. It is estimated that site visits take approximately 20 minutes per classroom. For classrooms that have an AM and PM session, the site visit will require a visit to only one of the two sessions.

During the visit, the WestEd E3 Institute staff member meets with the Site Director to confirm the information in the Site Portfolio, reviews and verifies documentation located in staff and children's files that will help validate element scores, and briefly observes classrooms for ratio/group size.

Lead teachers should be present during the site visit to participate in an interview and/or respond to any questions during the review process. The staff member may ask the lead teacher questions relating to the following: Teaching credentials, highest level of education, types of screening and assessment tools used in the classroom, how information is shared with parents and used to inform curriculum planning, and clarification on documents within a child's file.

If a lead teacher is not available during the visit, alternative arrangements can be made.

Step 3: Assessments

After a Site Visit has been conducted, a FIRST 5 Santa Clara County staff member will schedule two types of assessments:

1. Classroom Assessment Scoring System™ (CLASS™), which focuses on teacher-child interactions.
2. Environment Rating Scales (ERS), which focuses on the quality of interactions, but also looks at the environmental features that support these interactions, such as space, materials, and routines.

Trained, reliable ERS and CLASS™ assessors will conduct these assessments on randomly selected classrooms, and should not interfere with regular routine classroom activities.

For classrooms that have an AM and PM session, ERS and/or CLASS™ assessments will only be done on one of the two sessions. Lead teachers must be present during these assessments.



What happens after the QRIS Rating Process?

Once the rating process has been completed, a WestEd E3 Institute staff member will prepare a Site Rating Report and will schedule a meeting with the Site Administrator to go over this report. The report will include the individual element scores and an overall site rating.

The Site Rating score will be considered “provisional” until the CLASS™ and ERS assessments are completed. Once these assessments have been completed, the rating score is considered “final.” Final QRIS site ratings will be valid for two years and must be made available to the public by June 30, 2016.

Site ratings are shared with site directors and will later be used to develop quality enhancement plans and identify resources for sites. Site ratings are not linked to individual teacher performance reviews.

As part of Santa Clara County’s QRIS, sites are eligible to participate in program supports and professional development opportunities that will help improve program quality. Some opportunities currently available are:

- Access to trainings: PreK GLAD, CSEFEL, CPIN, Inclusion Collaborative, ASQ, DRDP
- Coaching opportunities
- Technical assistance
- Financial consultation
- Links to community resources and networks

For questions or more information please send an email to santaclaracountyrtt@wested.org