



**Department of Children and Families
Presentation to the
Legislative Council Steering Committee for Supporting
Healthy Early Brain Development
September 2014**

Quality Matters

- Between birth and age 5, a child's brain develops 90 percent of its capacity – the basis for academic success
- By age 2, poor children are already behind their peers in listening, counting and other skills essential to literacy
- A child's vocabulary as early as age 3 can predict third grade reading achievement
- By age 5, a typical middle-class child recognizes 22 letters of the alphabet compared to 9 for a child from a low income family
- Poor children hear as many as 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers

Quality Matters

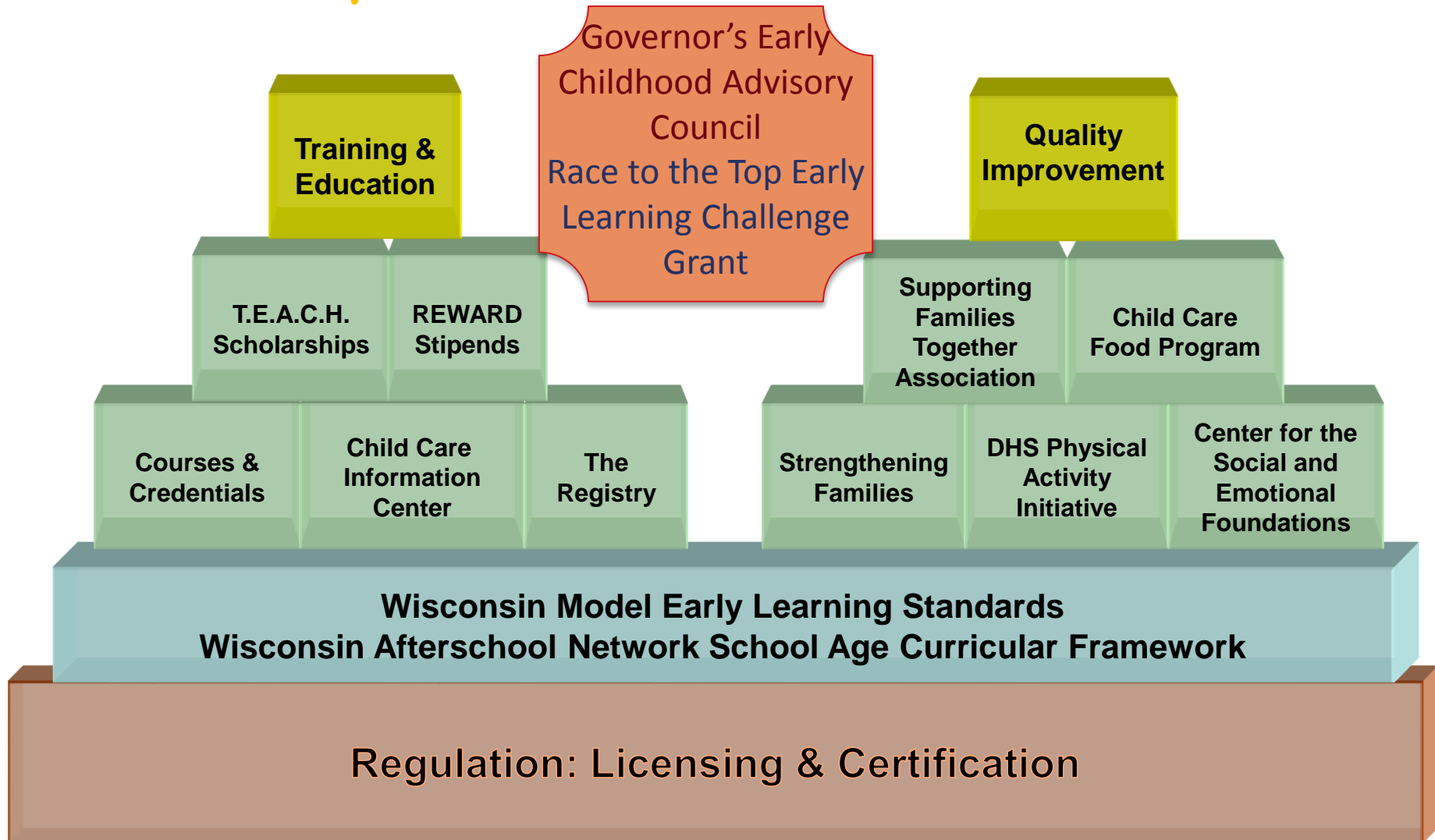
Children attending a high-quality Early Childhood Program

- Are more likely to:
 - Graduate high school
 - Attend and graduate college
 - Be employed as an adult
- Are less likely to:
 - Repeat a grade in school
 - Have a teen pregnancy
 - Be arrested in high school or as an adult
 - Receive public assistance as an adult

Quality Counts

- The State of Quality in Wisconsin
 - In 2002, 15% of programs were found to be excellent and 11% to be of poor quality but still doing better than other states
 - In 2014, 42% of programs are considered high-quality and less than 1% are considered poor quality of rated programs

Quality Framework - Macro Level



YoungStar Quality Framework

- Technical Consultation
- Micro-grants
- Scholarships (T.E.A.C.H.)
- On-line training
- College Credits and Credit for Prior Learning

Educational
Qualifications

Learning
Environment
and
Curriculum

Business
and
Professional
Practices

Health and
Well-being

YoungStar: Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (TQRIS)

- Tiered means a system of progressive standards that has multiple levels or tiers
- Quality Rating Improvement System
 - “method to assess, improve, and communicate levels of quality in early care and education settings”
- Help parents and families choose quality child care settings for their children by utilizing a 5 Star Rating designation
- Goals of a TQRIS are to improve child outcomes and provide incentives and supports to providers that desire to increase the level of quality in the care provided
- Supports include on-site technical consultation, regional/community training, coaching, micro-grants, and access to credit-based instruction
- YoungStar Ratings recognize quality practices that early learning settings have in place to support a child’s learning and optimal growth

YoungStar Participation

- Any Group Center, Licensed/Certified Family Child Care Program, Exempt School-Age Programs and Day Camps can volunteer to participate in YoungStar
- Programs that want to receive Wisconsin Shares are required to participate

How YoungStar Works

- Application for YoungStar participation
- Valid and reliable Technical Consultants and Formal Raters housed in local YoungStar offices
- Technical Rating required for 3 Star programs, Formal Rating with Observation required for 4 or 5 Star programs that are not accredited
- Automation-supported process for calculating program score

YoungStar Quality Indicators

1. Education and Training

Qualification of Lead Teachers, Directors, Providers

2. Learning Environment and Curriculum

Program self-assessment, Curriculum and Quality improvement plan

Technical or Formal Rating of the environment

3. Business and Professional Practices

Yearly budget planning, Employment policies, Staff evaluation plan

Benefits package, Paid time off, Family Involvement

4. Child Health and Well-being

Nutritious meals, Physical activity, Inclusive Practices

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Training

YoungStar Participation

Programs Participating In YoungStar

- 2,325: Family Child Care (Certified and Licensed Programs)
- 1,913: Group Child Care (Licensed Centers)
- 202: School-Age (Public School Programs)

YoungStar Participating Programs - Demonstrating Quality Movement

July 2012 – Child Care Program YoungStar Ratings:

59% of Programs are rated 2 Star

23% of Programs have demonstrated increased quality (reaching 3, 4 and 5 Stars)

16% of Programs have a pending rating

1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star	Pending	Total
40	2891	792	120	260	765	4868
1%	59%	16%	2%	5%	16%	

July 2014 – Child Care Program YoungStar Ratings:

54% of Programs are rated 2 Star

42% of Programs have demonstrated increased quality (reaching 3, 4 and 5 Stars)

4% of Programs have a pending rating

1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star	Pending	Total
21	2388	1300	188	360	183	4440
	54%	30%	4%	8%	4%	

Wisconsin Shares Authorizations

- Children with Wisconsin Shares Authorizations – Participation Statewide 2012:

46% of children attending high quality child care programs (3, 4 and 5 Star)

Statewide in **2012:**

19,572 children attend 2 Star Programs

17,671 children attend high quality child care programs (3, 4 and 5 Star)

- Children with Wisconsin Shares Authorization - Participation Statewide 2014:

72% of children attending high quality child care programs (3, 4 and 5 Star)

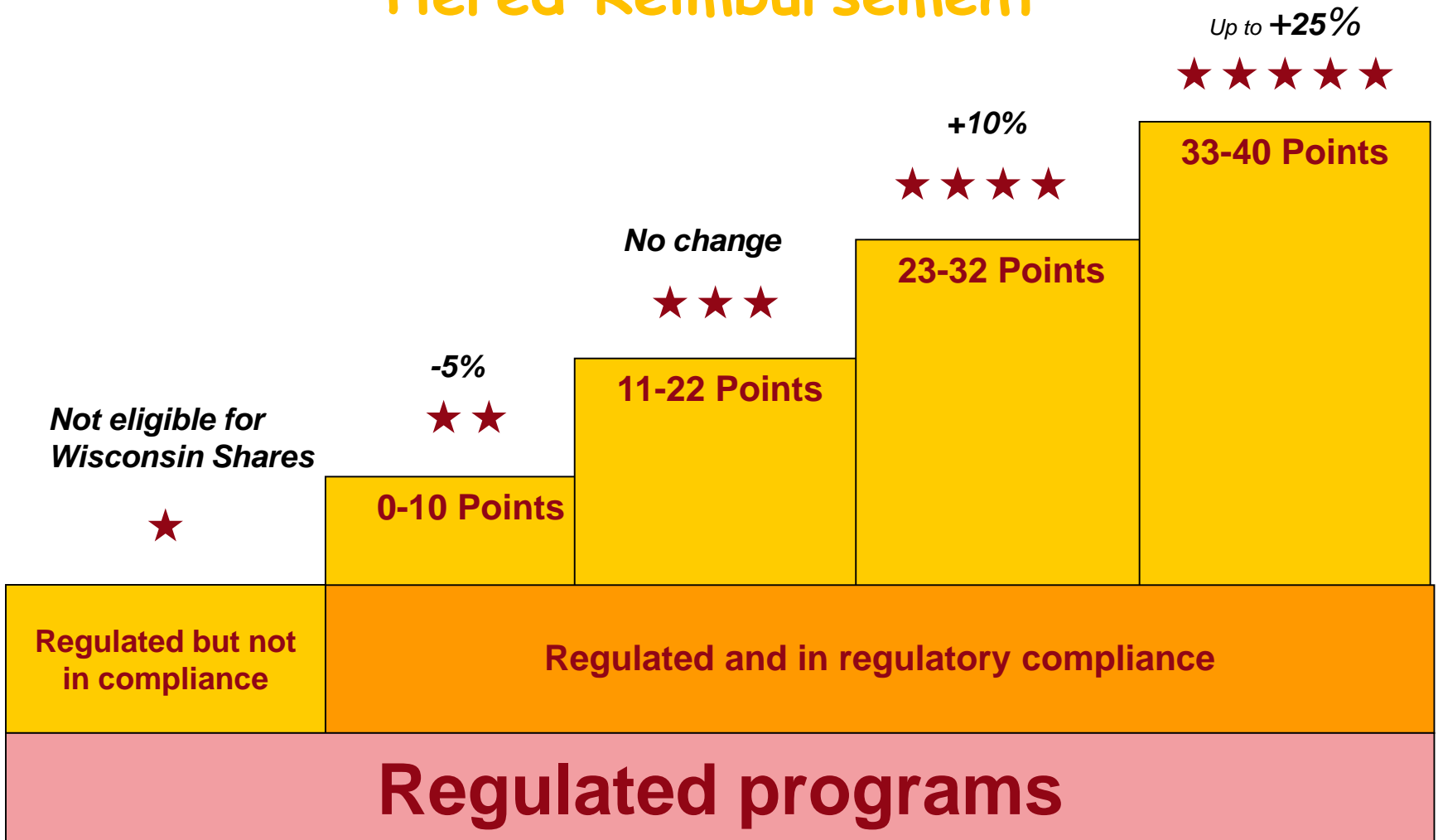
Statewide in **2014:**

12,190 children attend 2 Star Programs

31,625 children attend high quality child care programs (3, 4 and 5 Star)

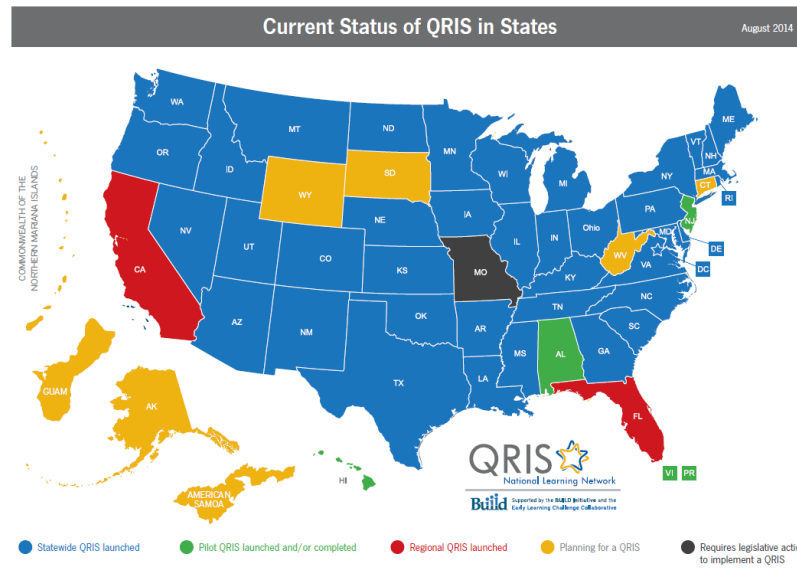
- Messaging on the importance of high quality child care environments is helping parents to make the choice to select child care programs that actively participate in YoungStar quality improvement efforts.

YoungStar Rating and Shares Tiered Reimbursement



QRIS in Other States

- 38 states currently have a Statewide QRIS
- Each state has a unique set of evaluation criteria, but all share common best practices and many criteria are closely related



YoungStar

- Available state-wide
- 1 to 5 Stars
 - 1 Star represents non-compliance
- Ratings are conducted on-site and include technical consultation
 - Highest-rated programs receive ERS observation
- Required for providers accepting children receiving subsidy
- Quality Indicators
 - Education and Training
 - Learning Environment and Curriculum
 - Professional and Business Practices
 - Children's Health and Well-being

Parent Aware

- Available only in some counties
- 1 to 4 Stars
 - 1 Star represents first step in quality
- Ratings include technical consultation, but are paper-based
 - Highest-rated programs receive CLASS observation
- Required for providers accepting children receiving subsidy
- Quality Indicators
 - Physical Health and Well-Being
 - Teaching and Relationships
 - Assessment of Child Progress
 - Training and Education

Benefits of YoungStar to Families

- Use search feature on YoungStar website to locate YoungStar-rated programs in their area
- Use star ratings to select programs based on quality indicators
- Access information on early childhood education, nutrition and healthy learning environments

Benefits of YoungStar to Providers

- Highlights strengths of each program
- Provides a vehicle for Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)
- Provides resources and supports
 - Professional Development
 - On-site coaching and mentoring
 - Micro-grants
 - Regional and community-based training
 - Increased access to credit-based instruction (across the state,) and Credit for Prior Learning