

Recommendation for Federal Funds Allocated to Child Care in Arkansas

AECA Public Policy Committee May, 2021

Section 7: Support Continuous Quality Improvement

QRIS Supports

AECA recommends:

- Invest in the full cost of implementing and sustaining the quality improvements specified in the rating system.
- Use resources to commission a study on child outcomes to inform the revised components of the QRIS, pre and post implementation.
- There may be upfront costs involved in further modifying a QRIS, but if the result is a more streamlined approach, there could be cost savings down the road that outweigh the costs of a revision.

[Streamline Quality Rating and Improvement System \(QRIS\) Rating Rubrics to Focus on Fewer but Most Relevant Aspects of Quality.](#)

AECA recommends revisiting Better Beginnings (QRIS) to highlight quality interactions emphasizing relevant sub-scales within the [Environment Rating Scale, Third Edition](#) (ERS-3) and/or CLASS.

Section 7.3.5: The early childhood educators themselves are the MOST important component in a high quality ECE program whether in a center or a family child care home.

AECA recommends the use of American Rescue Plan Act dollars (ARP\$) to support existing programs to reach higher quality by implementing a retention bonus strategy.

- Use new federal funding ARP\$ for compensation strategies in the form of bonuses.
- Commission an updated ECE Workforce Study, similar to the one from 2017 on [Instructional Staff in Child Care & Early Childhood Education](#) to provide a better understanding of the ECE workforce post-pandemic.