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From: "Commissioners, Office (EEC)" <office.commissioners@state.ma.us>

To: pkoskovich@accept.org

Reply-To: commissioners.office@eec.state.ma.us

Subject: Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Related Changes

Dear Early Education and Care Community:

The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) takes seriously, as you do, the implementation of the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The past few years have seen the introduction of QRIS to the field, the investment of millions in funding support, and the serious pursuit of quality improvements. We now have the opportunity to review the progress of QRIS and to carefully consider its future direction, and we have begun to make changes that will simplify procedures, while also continuing to maintain our commitment to improving quality.

EEC, in response to feedback from the field, detailed discussions with staff, and consultation with EEC Board members, has decided to make the following immediate changes:

- EEC is reversing the directive, as stated in an email dated February 7, 2013 "Clarification Regarding Rate Rewards for Family Child Care Substitute Reimbursement," that all Family Child Care (FCC) Providers must be at QRIS Level 2 by December 31, 2013.
- EEC is rescinding the requirement that the 739 contracted and voucher child care slots, which were opened in March 2013, be placed with QRIS Level 2 providers.
- EEC would like to clarify that 391 Grantees are expected to be participating in QRIS by June 30, 2013, however Level 2 participation is encouraged, not required.

These decisions are not made lightly, as we still deeply value and aspire to having providers work toward advancement on QRIS. However, while these requirements will certainly be a goal for the future, EEC will determine when requirements tied to funding are best introduced, with consideration of adequate supports such as training and funding.

In the coming months, we will be offering opportunities for the EEC community to participate in on-line surveys, roundtable discussions and small working groups. As we continue to examine many of our QRIS initiatives, we value and look forward to receiving your feedback. We appreciate your patience as we enter into this evaluative process, and we look forward to improving both our communication and collaboration with those who share our dedication to providing the best early education and care possible.

Sincerely,

Carol Nolan, EEC Director of Policy

Gwen Alexander, Program Quality Specialist/QRIS Lead
