

# STARS QRIS Revision Update

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Commissioner,  
Child Development Division  
March 23, 2023



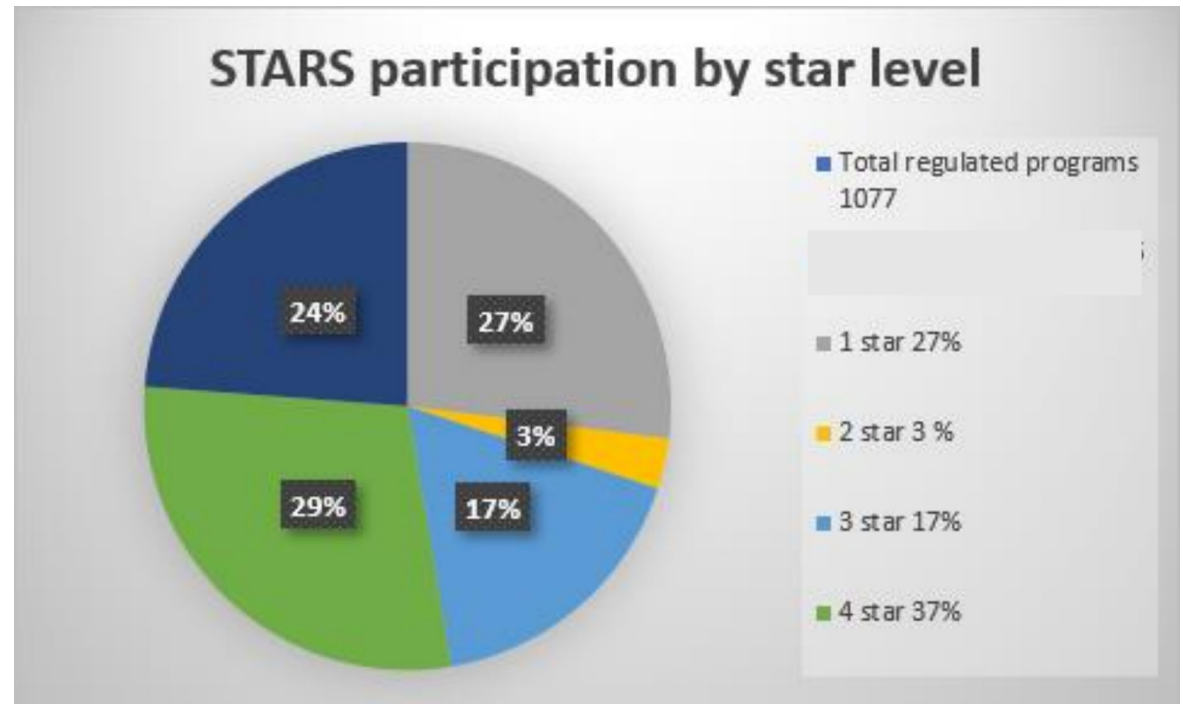
## Current STARS system

### Process

- All regulated programs at 1 star
- Application by programs
- Scored by STARS staff
- External assessments at higher STARS levels

### Benefits

- Small financial bonus when earn/renew STARS
- Currently tied to CCFAP reimbursement rates
- 3 STARS or higher to be a Specialized Child Care Provider
- 4 or 5 STARS to be a UPK program



# Criteria for STARS Revision

Promote child well-being, learning, and development

- Promote developmentally appropriate practice
- Be inclusive and demonstrate cultural competence

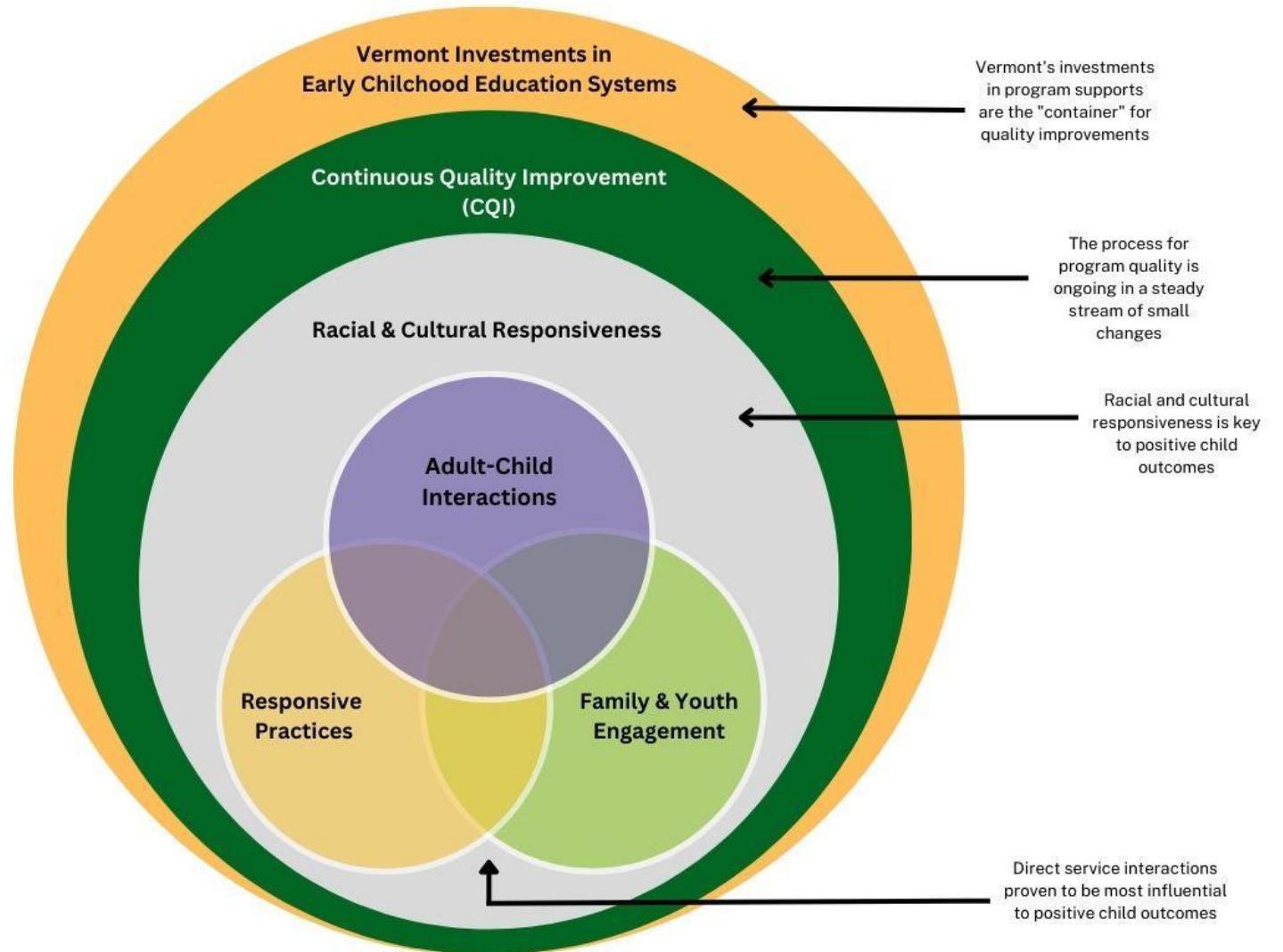
Support a program's continuous quality improvement

- Build upon Vermont's existing program standards. Standards include licensing regulations, VELs, Core competencies, EE, AS, etc.
- Be either researched-based or evidence-informed

Have the following characteristics:

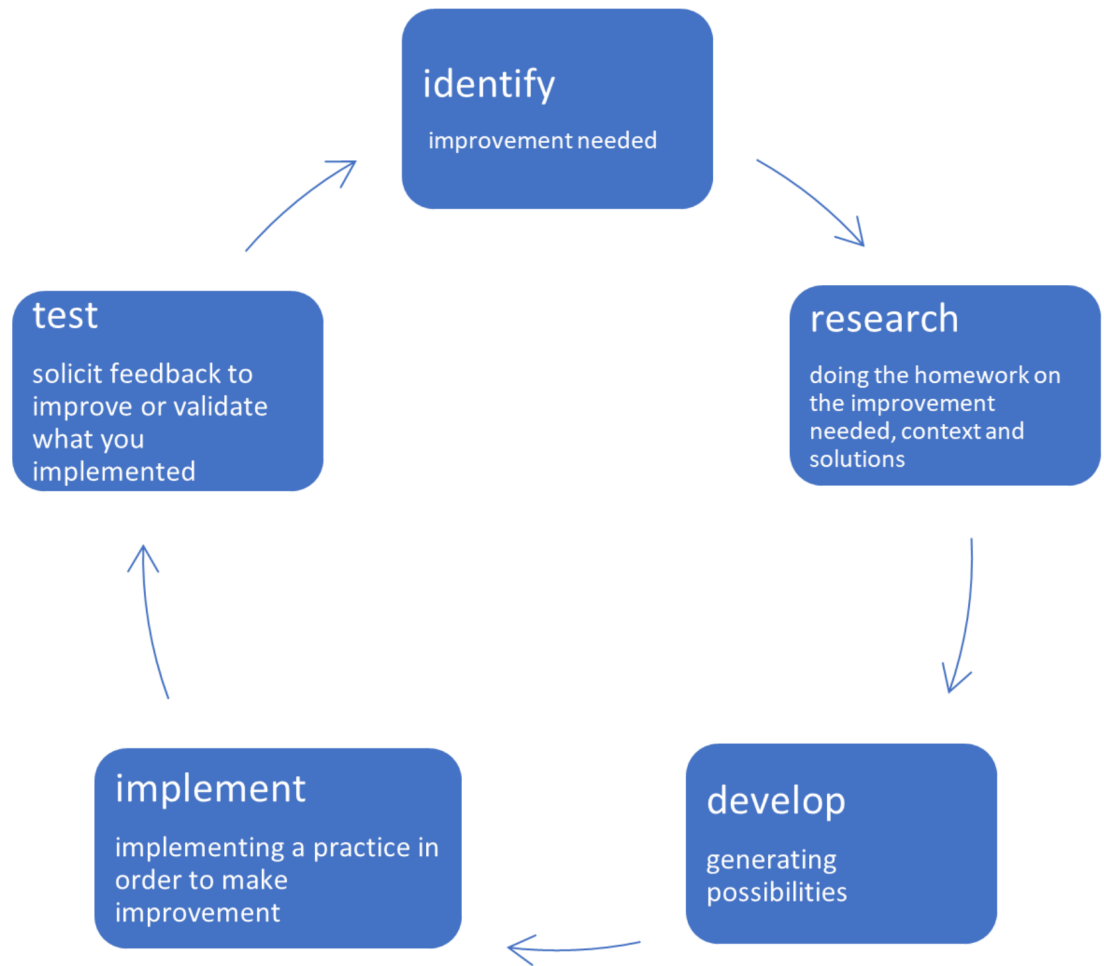
- Work across all settings while accounting for differences in program type.
- Be written in language that is clear to programs and families.
- Benefit outweighs the burden of implementation
- Be observable, documentable

Revised  
STARS Model



## STARS CQI

The STARS process for program quality is ongoing. At each STARS level, programs engage in a process of continuous quality improvement (CQI) with a STARS CQI Plan



# STARS Level Progressions

The five STARS levels build from a self-study stage that prepares programs to make quality improvements.

Each subsequent level builds upon the previous level, implements strategies for improvement and utilizes evidence-based practices and a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Plan.

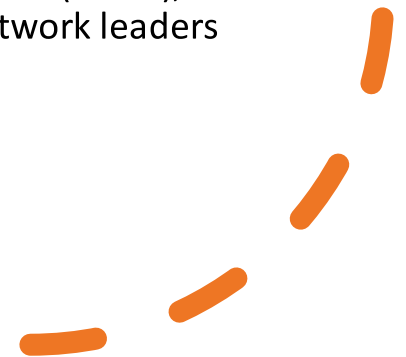


# SPARQS

System for Program  
Access to Resources for  
Quality Supports

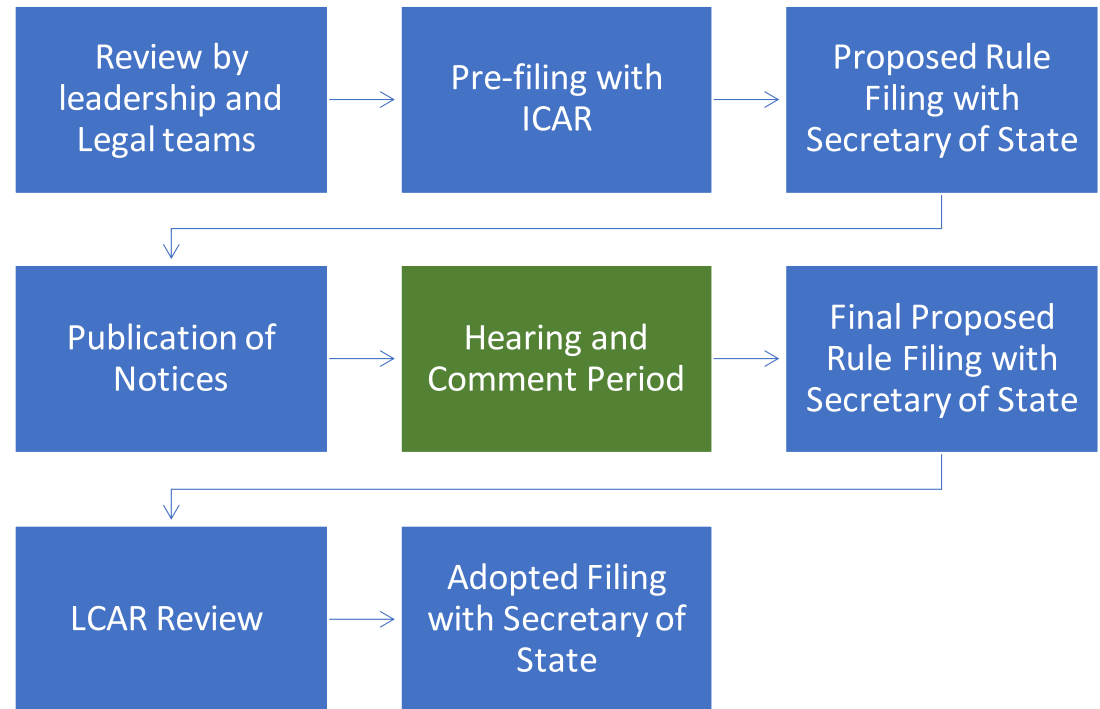
## **New Quality Supports program launching in July 2023**

- Evidence-based and research-informed quality coaching and support services to VT regulated early childhood and afterschool programs, with subject matter experts offering virtual and in-person services across the state
- Assessment system within Vermont STARS to ensure confidential, timely, valid, and reliable unscored and scored assessments for regulated programs.
- Administration of Vermont Early Childhood Networks (VECN), including coaching and technical assistance for Network leaders



# STARS Administrative Rule Promulgation Process

Public Comment Period Ends  
March 22, 2023





## Proposal to eliminate tiered reimbursement in CCFAP

- Research shows that tiered reimbursement does not improve child outcomes.
- Changes in the STARS Administrative Rule include removing language for tiered reimbursement.
- Supports the Child Care Expansion Initiative to untie CCFAP payments from STARS ratings to ensure that the state is paying the same rate on behalf of a family regardless of the number of STARS their child's program has earned.

# Questions?

Janet McLaughlin

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