

## Head Start and Quality Rating & Improvement Systems (QRIS)

The following four States have incorporated the Federal Head Start Performance Standards into their QRIS standards:

- ❖ Maine has a set of QRIS standards specifically for Head Start programs. The standards are on the Quality for ME Web site at [www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/qualityforme.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/qualityforme.htm)
- ❖ New Hampshire's highest level is either accreditation or meeting the Federal Head Start Performance Standards. Additional information is available at [www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/CDB/LIBRARY/Form/licensedplus-applications.htm](http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/CDB/LIBRARY/Form/licensedplus-applications.htm)
- ❖ In Pennsylvania, for the standards on staff qualifications and professional development at the Star 1 level, facilities must comply with the Head Start Performance Standards if they are Head Start sites. Additional information is available at [www.pakeys.org/docs/FINAL%202009-2010%20STARS%20Center%20Standards.pdf](http://www.pakeys.org/docs/FINAL%202009-2010%20STARS%20Center%20Standards.pdf)
- ❖ In Vermont, Head Start/Early Head Start sites that have achieved a Blue or Gold Certificate,[1] that have been in operation for 5 or more years with no regulatory compliance issues, and that are Specialized Child Care Providers, receive 5 STARS after submitting a brief application. Additional information is available at [http://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/pdf/cdd/stars/STARSProgram\\_guide.pdf](http://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/pdf/cdd/stars/STARSProgram_guide.pdf).

[1] A Gold Certificate is awarded to Head Start/Early Head Start programs when no findings of noncompliance are found during a Federal onsite review. A Blue Certificate is awarded if the noncompliance findings are corrected.