



QRIS Connection

QUESTIONS?

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**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:**

Staff Changes at DEL:

Suzette Puente, who has been working as the QRIS Professional Development System Coordinator, has moved to work as a Program Manager for DEL. Char Rupp has recently been hired for the QRIS position and will be starting in late March. Additionally, Yonatan Eyal has joined DEL on a temporary basis assisting us with data analysis and research on the QRIS project. We welcome them all in their new roles.

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The Voice of Parent Leaders

What do parent leaders in the pilot site communities say about QRIS?

DEL asked all pilot sites to involve parents as leaders in their community planning and workgroups. Diverse groups of parents are working around the state to give their opinions on building a rating system that will ultimately benefit children and families. Here are some thoughts from a few of our QRIS parent leaders:

"I believe in helping parents to be informed and learn how to prepare their children for their future. If parents can learn to be successful, the support they provide to their children early will make their children's future successful, too."

-Teresa Mendoza-Casby, East Yakima, Thrive By Five WA

Teresa has three children, ages 7, 9 and 14. Ms. Mendoza works full time in a preschool classroom at a local elementary school.

"Families are what drive the field of early learning. I'm inspired at the opportunity to have my voice heard and to lend the family perspective."

-Paul Caggianese, Clark County

Paul has two children, ages 2 and 6 months. Paul teaches 3 to 5-year-old children at Clark College.

"We parents need support and direction when choosing a caregiver for our children... I was blessed to happen upon great people who led me to great programs that have given me the support I needed to rear my children into wonderful people. I believe the first few years of care lay a foundation for the rest of a child's life. I won't leave that responsibility to just anyone."

-Jessica Honeycutt, Kitsap County

Jessica has two daughters and has served as a Policy Council parent, and Washington Association of Head Start and ECEAP Parent Representative.

"I have had to rely on the daycare system to help raise my children over the past six years. I am hopeful that the information collected from this project will be useful for parents in the future."

-Eileen Francisco, Pierce County

Eileen has two children, ages 3 and 6.

"My opinion is that children who suffer due to a lack of appropriate services and adequate care is neglect on behalf of the community. I am inspired to participate in this child care planning work because, ultimately, my passion is to contribute to the lives of children in hopes of providing them a better future."

-Sarah M. Collins, Spokane County: WSU

Sarah has an 8-year-old son and is in her second year of graduate school.

"It is all about quality for our children. Children are plants in the ground that need light, water and love to grow. It is up to us as the adults to provide them with what they need in order to grow and become good people. It is up to us as parents to make sure that where we send our children is a place that gives these things to our children when we are not there."

-Burhan Farah, White Center, Thrive by Five WA

Burhan is a Somali parent who lives in White Center

Environmental Scan

Pilot sites have gathered information about their local community to determine what is needed for a Quality Rating and Improvement System. The environmental scan is a way to identify what resources are available and needed to inform recommendations for a statewide system. Next, pilot sites will use this baseline information from the environmental scan to have more in-depth conversations about recommendations for a statewide system.

