

COMMEMORATE THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF QUALITY START LOS ANGELES

Quality Start Los Angeles is Los Angeles’ countywide Quality Improvement System (QIS), part of a larger state and national movement designed to empower early learning providers to build upon and improve the quality of care they provide to children ages birth to five.

Los Angeles County began QIS implementation as part of an opportunity to expand high-quality early learning opportunities for children through California’s Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) in 2012. In 2014, the two distinct systems that had resulted from RTT-ELC were merged to create one countywide QIS structure, which was branded as Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA).

QSLA is designed to enhance early learning that strengthens families and nurtures the whole child by empowering early educators and maximizing resources through an integrated county-wide system of quality improvement supports. It is led by a consortium of six early learning agencies: Los Angeles County Office of Education, First 5 LA, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, PEACH (Partnerships in Education, Articulation, and Coordination in Higher Education), and the L.A. County Child Care Planning Committee.

QSLA is founded on the belief that all children deserve the opportunity to learn and grow in a caring, nurturing, stimulating, developmentally appropriate environment where their differences are celebrated and their culture, family structure, language, racial identity, gender identity, abilities and disabilities, religious beliefs, and economic status are embraced.

QSLA is committed to enhancing the quality of early learning centers and family child care homes that participate voluntarily in its quality improvement program by meeting the diverse needs of early educators through professional development, specialized

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virtual and in-person trainings, individualized program supports, and access to cutting-edge resources and funding opportunities. QSLA's coaching takes a strengths-based approach and is built upon Practice-Based Coaching, Reflective Practice, and Servant Leadership strategies that support early learning professionals in their program and career development.

In addition, QSLA partners with families by providing them with tools and resources to understand the elements of a quality program for their child, how to be involved in their child's early learning journey and how to select a program that is right for them. QSLA also encourages families and communities to support children's bilingual development and recognize the value of their home language through the expansive, countywide "Two Languages, Twice the Opportunities" campaign that recognizes being multilingual is a superpower that can lead to improved academic and social emotional abilities, more career opportunities, and better financial outcomes in children's lives.

In 2023-24, the most recently completed program year, QSLA served 1,235 early learning providers, including 770 centers and 465 family child care homes, which in turn provided high-quality early care and education to 44,442 children from birth to five. Over the past decade of service, together with committed early educators, families and partners, the QSLA consortium has nurtured, educated, and empowered hundreds of thousands of young learners, setting them on a path toward lifelong success.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors commemorate the tenth anniversary of Quality Start Los Angeles, commending all enrolled early learning providers for their voluntary participation, a testament to their steadfast commitment to providing high-quality early learning services to children and families.

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