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Aligned Background Brief:
Quality Assurance Report



QAR Pilot

In 2016, **SB 638** established a pilot program for Missouri to develop a **Quality Assurance Report** for early learning programs. The pilot has allowed professionals in the early childhood sector to work together to consider various quality indicators, receive coaching on continuous improvement strategies, and review resource materials for program professionals and administrators. Participation in the pilot assists providers in implementing best practices and gives them access to resources that will lead to more high-quality options for families.

The QAR evaluates components of an early care and education program as it relates to:

- Health
- Safety
- Policy and Procedures
- Family engagement
- Classroom environment
- Child screenings and assessment
- Staff qualifications and professional development

Evaluators assess programs to provide a framework that providers can follow to carve a path towards program improvement.

Benefit to Families

Families deserve to have a reliable, objective quality measure regarding early learning programs. A Quality Assurance Report helps families make informed choices about quality care for their young children.

The QAR has a sunset provision that Aligned worked to extend once with SB 743, which expires on August 28, 2022. We will continue to work with lawmakers to make the QAR program permanent.

Missouri has an opportunity to improve the quality of early care and education by establishing a quality rating system for early care and education and providing a tool for families as they assess care options for their children.