

LAUNCHING THE QRIS IN SAN BERNARDINO

San Bernardino County is home to nearly 2,000 licensed early care and education programs. The QRIS strategic planning process has been a unique opportunity to mobilize cross sector partnerships of educators from early childhood through higher education, to funders, and leaders from a diversity of sectors including workforce investment, housing and human services—all recognizing the importance of supporting these programs to be high quality.

Using the QRIS Strategic Plan as a roadmap for the coming years, these partners will join others who share a commitment to quality in designing and launching the QRIS in 2016.



BE A CHAMPION FOR QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

Building a quality improvement system will require ongoing engagement and participation from all who are committed to building a strong workforce that can provide the highest quality care and education for children. You can be a champion by:

- Advocating for quality in all early learning initiatives
- Developing and supporting policies and legislation that address systems barriers to quality
- Supporting the key components of a successful QRIS, including educational opportunities, training, professional development and community awareness
- Building opportunities to align the QRIS with the K-12 educational system
- Joining San Bernardino County's QRIS Partnership or "Consortium"

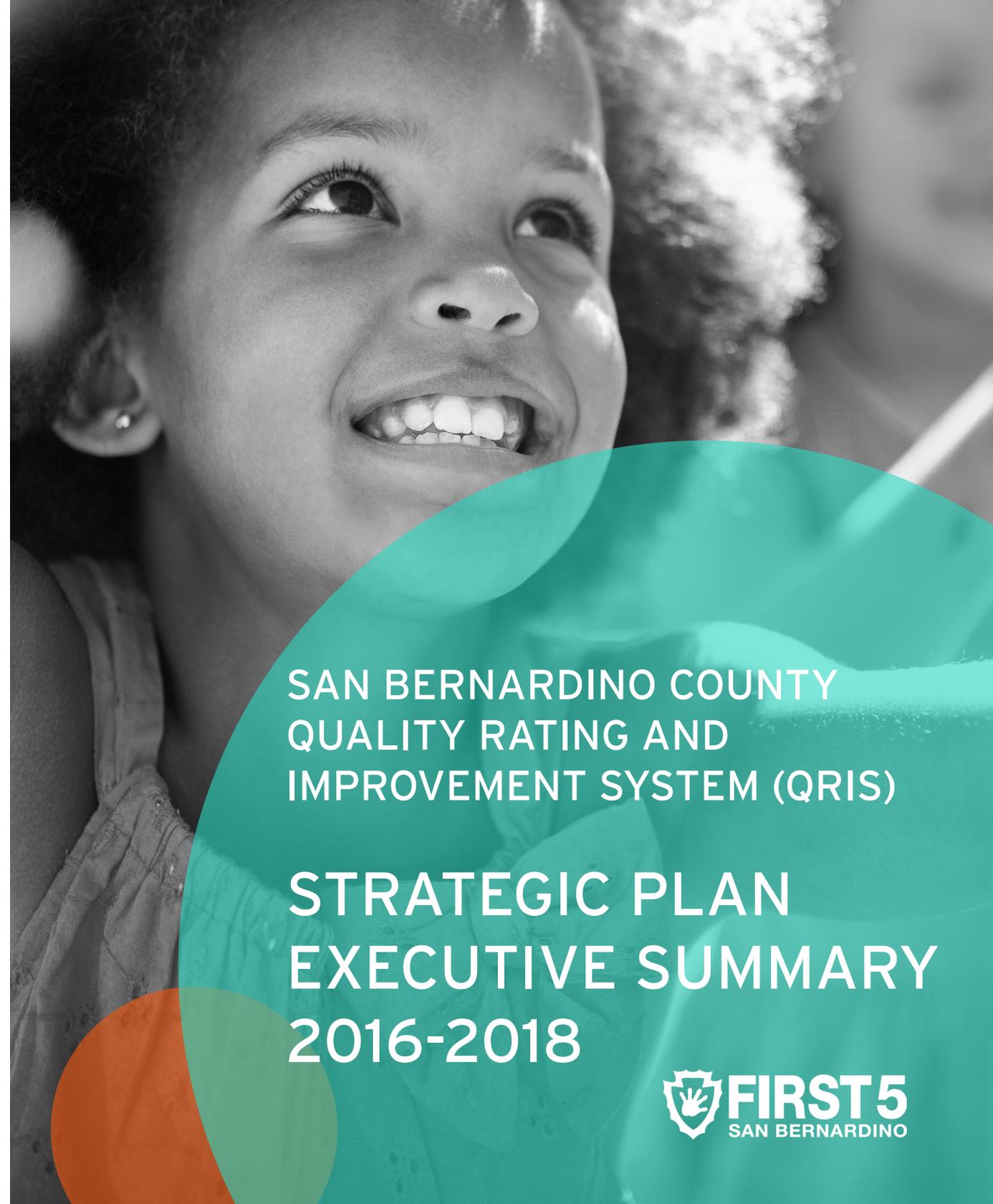
For the full QRIS Strategic Plan and to learn more about how you can get involved, please contact:

First 5 San Bernardino County
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(909)386-7706 or (888) 9-FIRST-5



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
QUALITY RATING AND
IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM (QRIS)

STRATEGIC PLAN
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
2016-2018





HIGH QUALITY EARLY CARE & EDUCATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Research shows that a child’s brain develops most rapidly during the first 5 years of life. Early care and education experiences help to build a foundation for learning and prepare children for kindergarten, lifelong learning, and college and career readiness. Other benefits to quality early learning experiences include:

- Reduced special education costs;
- Increased high school graduation rates;
- Reduced crime rates over time;
- Increased employment, income and tax contribution levels;
- Decreased public health care and welfare expenses; and
- Reduced grade repetition

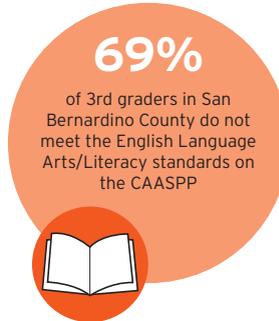
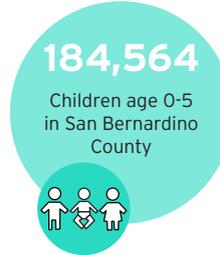
Despite what we know about the benefits of high quality early learning, nearly 60% of U.S. early care and education programs are found to be of “inadequate” or minimal quality. Research has also demonstrated that children who are economically disadvantaged have the most to gain from high quality early learning programs.

QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEMS (QRIS) AS A SOLUTION

Over the past decade, states across the country have started to develop frameworks for organizing and communicating standards of quality in early care and education. A Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS) is a system that:

- Defines quality standards for early care and education programs
- Measures programs against these standards
- Offers and connects educators to training and professional development opportunities
- Helps parents & caregivers find quality programs for their children

California has developed the CA-QRIS Framework that sets standards of quality for licensed child care programs. Across California, counties are using these standards to develop local QRISs to increase the quality of early learning programs for thousands of children.



HIGH QUALITY EARLY CARE & EDUCATION IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

In 2015, First 5 San Bernardino brought together a cross-section of early learning partners, policy makers, educators, and other key stakeholders to develop a shared vision for San Bernardino County’s QRIS system. The resulting QRIS Strategic Plan establishes the priorities and future direction for San Bernardino County’s developing QRIS.

VISION

All children, birth through age 5, are in high quality early learning environments and are prepared to achieve their fullest potential in school and in life.

MISSION

Build a comprehensive quality improvement system of services to support early childhood educators, parents, and caregivers to provide high quality early learning environments that will nurture the whole child and promote school readiness for children 0-5 in San Bernardino County.



STRATEGIC GOALS

Through the QRIS strategic planning process, the following goals were established to make the vision for San Bernardino County’s children a reality:

Goal 1: Sustainable System - Establish the Operational Infrastructure for a Long-Term & Highly Effective Quality Rating & Improvement System

Goal 2: Qualified Workforce - Enhance Early Educator’s Skills to Provide High Quality Early Education and Care for Children

Goal 3: Systems Alignment - Integrate and Collaborate with Systems that Impact the Education, Health and Well-Being of Young Children

Goal 4: Collective Advocacy - Catalyze Community-Wide Action by Informing Key Leaders & Empowering Parents, Caregivers, and Providers to Support High Quality Early Learning

Goal 5: Results-Focused - Establish & Implement Clear Measures of Impact & Progress