

# **Please Support HB 387!**

## **A Quality Rating System (QRS) For Missouri Child Care Programs**



### **What is QRS?**

A voluntary 5-star Quality Rating System for Missouri early childhood and afterschool programs based on quality indicators like staff education, continual training, learning environment, and encouraging family involvement.

### **Why a Quality Rating System?**

#### **Gives parents more comprehensive information when choosing a child care program.**

527 Missouri child care providers have achieved the high quality benchmark of state or national accreditation. Yet parents have no consistent measure or comparison of quality for the more than 3,000 additional licensed child care providers in the state. QRS would provide a way for parents to evaluate and select high quality programs.

#### **Helps providers improve their quality.**

HB387 creates a Quality Improvement Grant Fund that will help providers afford quality improvements and help ensure that parents don't bear the burden of increased costs for quality care. Subject to state appropriation, quality grants could include facility improvements, educational materials, or higher education scholarships.

#### **Prepares more young children for success in K-12.**

The achievement gaps we see in elementary school and beyond begin before children even enter kindergarten. 90% of a child's brain develops in the first 5 years of life and quality early education experiences provide our youngest Missourians with a strong foundation for future educational success.

***HB387 is sponsored by Rep. Wayne Cooper and has 28 bi-partisan co-sponsors***

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#### ***Partnership for Children***

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