

June 2010: Keystone STARS: Building a better, brighter future for Pennsylvania



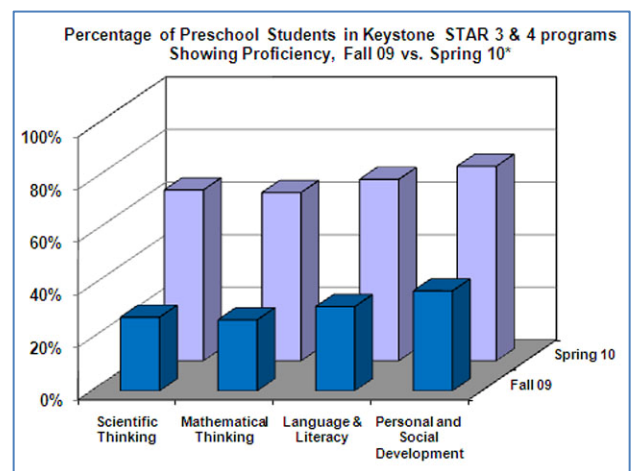
Keystone STARS promotes quality improvement among child care and Head Start programs through quality standards and supports. Child care programs may enter Keystone STARS at the Start with STARS level and earn a STAR 1 through STAR 4 rating based on research-based standards for staff education and professional development, the early learning environment, and business management.

Begun as a pilot program in 2002, Keystone STARS now the largest quality early education program in Pennsylvania, serving children from birth through school-age in every county. As of April 2010, nearly 4,500 child care programs (nearly 70 percent of child care centers) served nearly 170,000 children were enrolled in Keystone STARS.

Keystone STARS is promoting children's school readiness.

More than 97 percent of preschoolers in Keystone STAR 3 & 4 programs showed age-appropriate or emerging age-appropriate proficiency in literacy, numeracy, and social skills after attending Keystone STARS in 2009-2010.*

- More than 65 percent of preschoolers who attended Keystone STARS 3 & 4 programs finished the 2009-2010 program year with age-appropriate proficiency in literacy, numeracy and social skills.*
 - The percent of children who were proficient in Scientific Thinking increased from 28% in Fall to 65% in Spring.
 - The percent of children who were proficient in Mathematical Thinking increased from 27% in Fall to 64% in Spring.
 - The percent of children who were proficient in Language and Literacy increased from 32% in Fall to 69% in Spring.
 - The percent of children who were proficient in Personal and Social Development increased from 38% in Fall to 74% in Spring.



Keystone STARS increases access to quality early learning opportunities for Pennsylvania's young children.

As early learning programs earn higher STARS ratings, they are improving the quality of the early education each child receives. In 2008-2009

- Approximately 45% of Child Care Works children in regulated care are enrolled in Keystone STARS program
- Approximately one-third (32%) of STARS programs moved up at least one STAR level
- The number of high quality STAR 3 & 4 programs increased by nearly one-third (30%).

Keystone STARS helps parents make the best choices for their children and family.

When looking for quality early learning programs, parents can use the Keystone STARS rating scale as a guide. With this information, parents can select the best early learning program for their child. The Keystone STARS supports make it possible for child care programs to improve their quality without drastically increasing the cost to parents.

I cannot say enough about the quality of education my daughter received in her Keystone STAR 4 facility. I have seen her transform and grow socially, cognitively, and emotionally.

- Joy Blasick, Parent, Columbia County

Providing a quality early education continuum

Keystone STARS is part of a quality early education continuum serving children from birth to age five through school-age and their families to prepare Pennsylvania's children for success in school and in life. It is the combination of programs such as PA Pre-K Counts, Child Care Works, Head Start, Early Intervention, Full-Day Kindergarten, Nurse-Family Partnership, Keystone Babies and Parent-Child Home Program that provides the most effective results. For more information, visit www.dpw.state.pa.us.

* Based on program reports for 9,804 children in Work Sampling Online reporting tool