

July 1, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) confirms that Pennsylvania's Quality Rating and Improvement System, Keystone STARS, accepts Federal Head Start monitoring data as documentation of the quality indicators at the highest level, STAR 4. Keystone STARS acceptance allows Pennsylvania's Head Start programs to be in compliance with Head Start Program Performance Standard §1302.53(b)(2):

*A program, with the exception of American Indian and Alaska Native programs, must participate in its state or local Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) if:*

- Its state or local QRIS accepts Head Start monitoring data to document quality indicators included in the state's tiered system;*
- Participation would not impact a program's ability to comply with the Head Start Program Performance Standards; and,*
- The program has not provided the Office of Head Start with a compelling reason not to comply with this requirement.*

Head Start and Keystone STARS reciprocity became effective July 1, 2017. This letter is intended to serve as evidence of Compliance.

Please feel free to contact our office at 717-346-9320 with any questions or for additional details regarding the Keystone STARS program.

Sincerely,



Rebecca C. Mercatoris  
Director, Early Learning Policy and Professional Development  
Office of Child Development and Early Learning