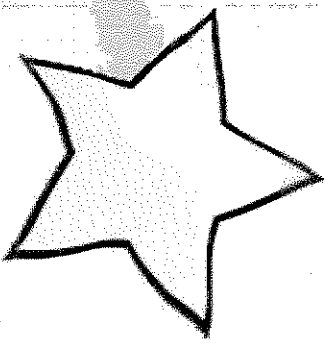


STARS

Step Ahead Recognition System



STARS is Vermont's quality recognition system for child care, preschool, and afterschool programs. Programs that participate in STARS are stepping ahead – going above and beyond state regulations to provide professional services that meet the needs of children and families.

HOW STARS WORKS:

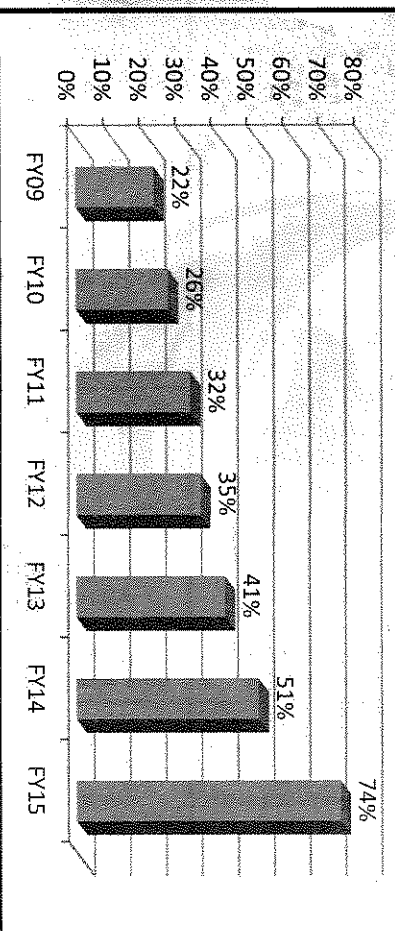
Regulated early childhood and afterschool programs apply for points in one or more of the five arenas of quality.

- Regulatory history
- Staff qualifications and annual Professional development
- Families and Communities
- Program practices
- Administration

There are three to five points possible in each arena. Providers identify the points their program is eligible to earn based on their specific achievements. The point total determines the star level.

- 1 - 4 points = ★
- 5 - 8 points = ★★
- 9 - 11 points = ★★★
- 12 - 14 points = ★★★★
- 15 - 17 points = ★★★★★

Percentage of Programs Participating in STARS by State Fiscal Year



Standards in STARS have been jointly developed by the Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and Families and the Agency of Education.