



# Parent Aware: Minnesota's Quality Rating and Improvement System

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# Today's goals:

Provide an overview of Parent Aware:

- QRIS and Parent Aware
- Which programs are eligible to participate in Parent Aware
- How programs earn stars
- How child care programs are supported to improve
- Recent changes
- How Parent Aware helps families
- The growth and reach of Parent Aware

QRIS is a systemic approach to:

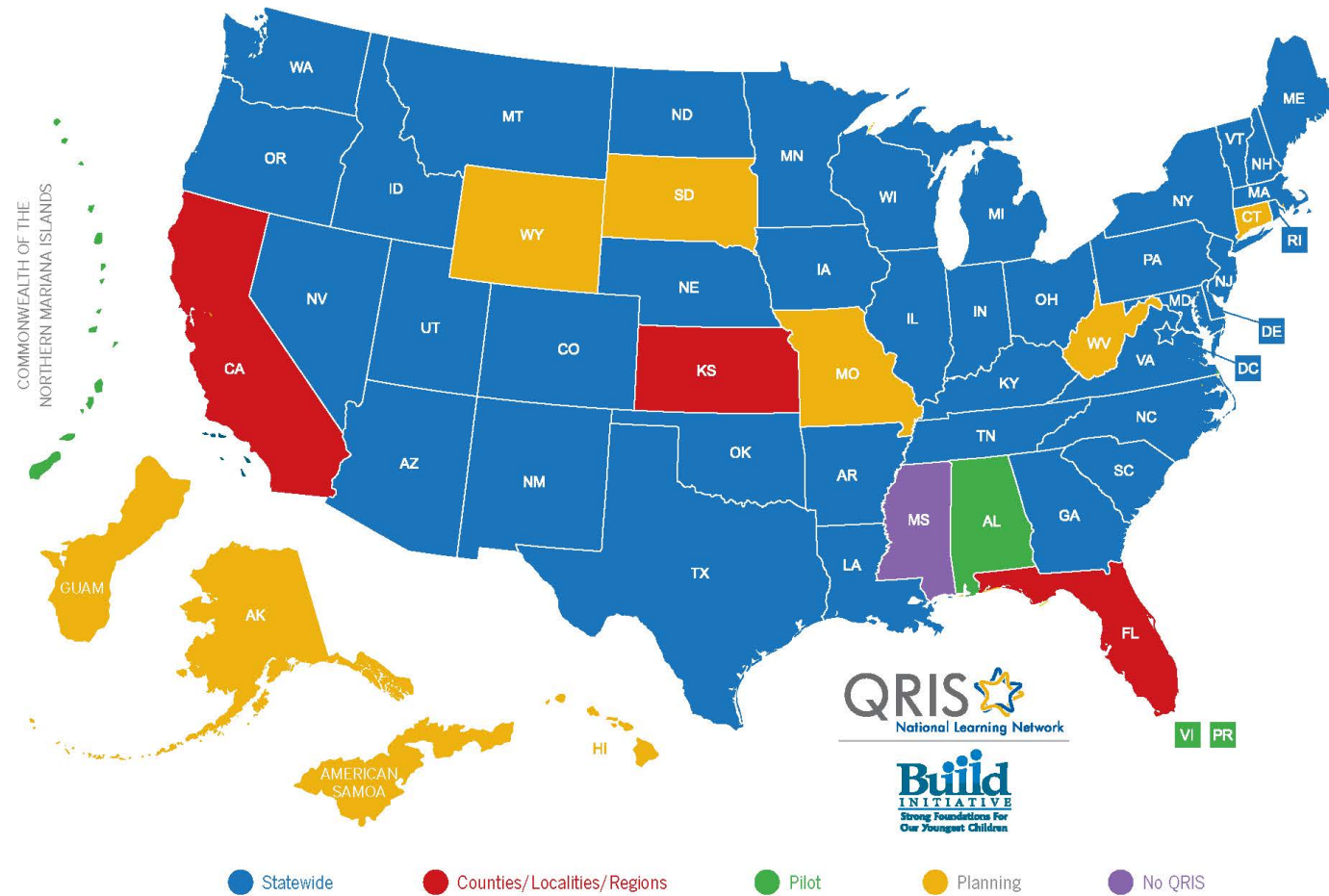


Quality in child care and early education programs

([qrisguide.acf.hhs.gov](http://qrisguide.acf.hhs.gov))

Current Status of QRIS in States January 2017

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## Parent Aware is Minnesota's QRIS

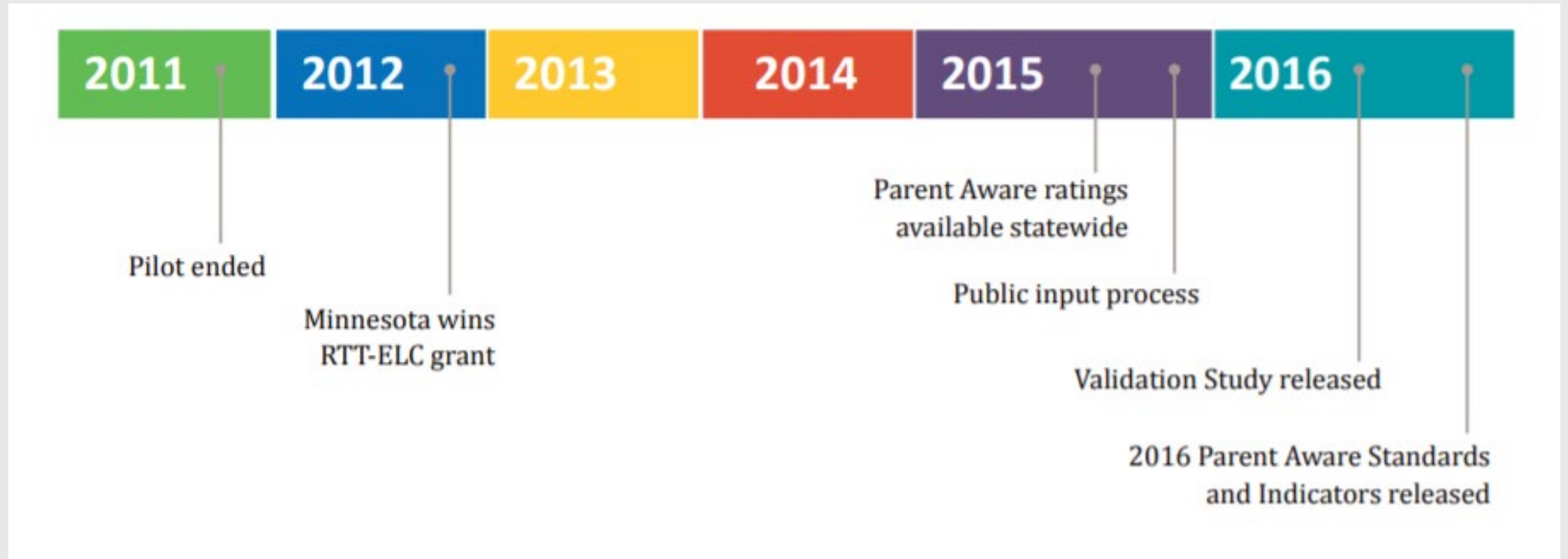
- Provides a set of Standards and Indicators, known as “kindergarten readiness best practices”
- Are based on research and public input
- Recognizes and rewards programs that use best practices
- Critical part of Minnesota's early care and education infrastructure

## Linked to:

- Early Learning Scholarships (124D.165)
  - To accept scholarships, programs must have a Star Rating
- Child Care Assistance Program (119B.13)
  - 15% higher rate paid to programs with a Three-Star Rating
  - 20% higher rate paid to programs with a Four-Star Rating

# Parent Aware history

## Phases of development





# Why quality care and education is important

Supports two important goals:

Support for families



School readiness for children





# Who is eligible for Parent Aware?

## Program types eligible:

- Licensed child care centers
- Licensed family child care providers
- Public school pre-kindergarten programs
- Head Start programs
- Combinations of above, through partnerships

Serve children 0 – 5

Voluntary

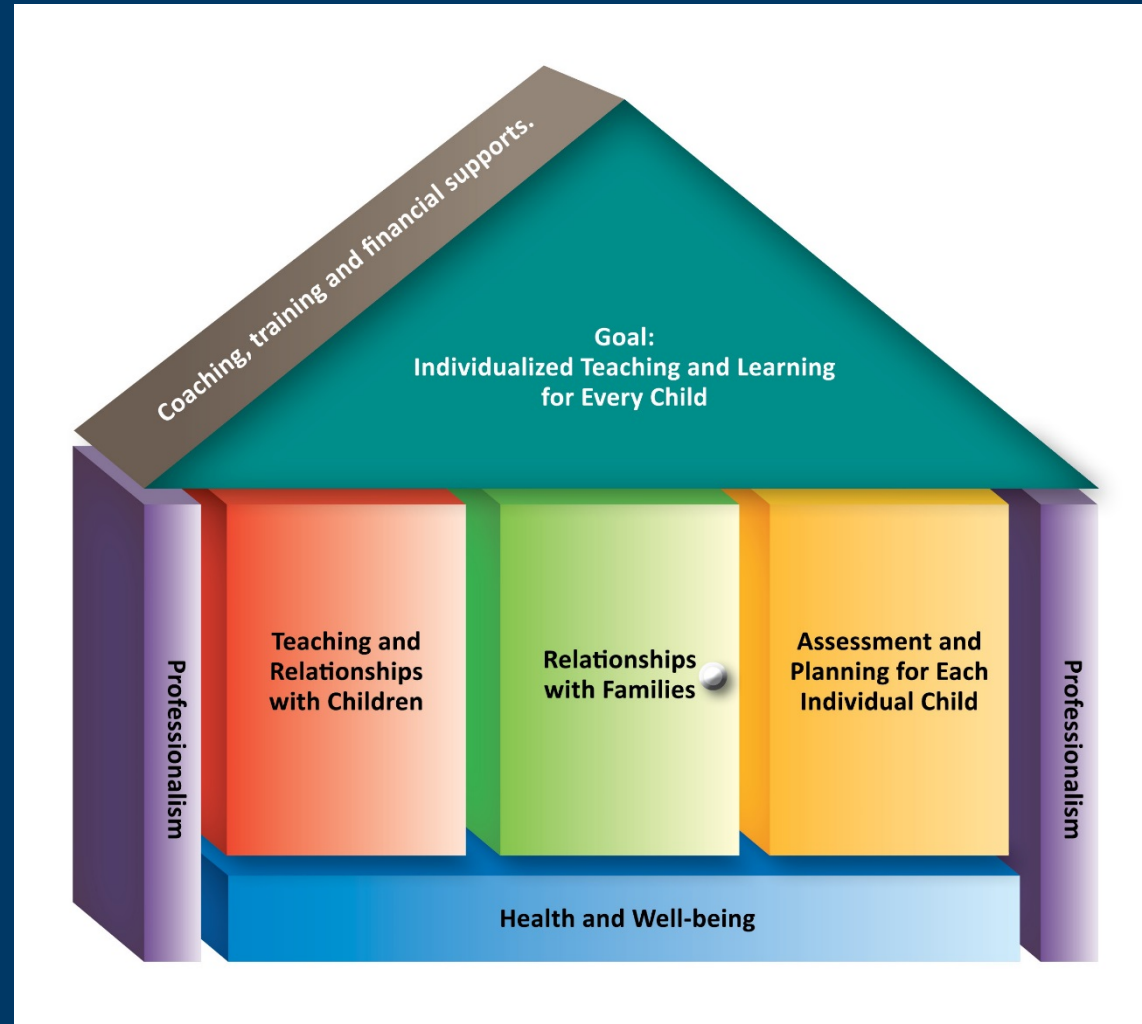
# How do programs earn stars?

## Flexible Framework:

Standards and Indicators describe best practices

Programs have flexibility in how they demonstrate quality

Programs show how they meet the Standards in the House Framework



# Rating options for programs

## Four rating pathways

1. Full: non-accredited, licensed child care programs
2. Accelerated: accredited, licensed child care programs and school-based pre-k meeting School Readiness standards
3. Automatic: Voluntary Pre-K and Head Start
4. Expedited: Rated child care centers with experienced directors that are expanding and opening new programs

# Coaching and training

*The child care providers I work with are awesome and I get to help them illuminate that, really show them all the wonderful things they're doing!"*



Training and coaching are available to help providers **use best practices.**

**- Karen Bradley, Parent Aware Quality Coach**

# Quality improvement options for programs

## Building Quality:

Option of 6 or 12 months

\$1,000 after completion

Proceed to Full-Rating  
process



## Full-Rating:

6 months

6 – 15 hours of coaching  
support

Submit documentation

\$2500/\$3500 after 1-3 Star  
Rating

# How Parent Aware helps parents

Lists all licensed programs  
with Star Rating

Developed with partners

Over 86,000 visitors in 2018

Consumer-friendly website

Of parents who had used the  
ParentAwareRatings.org  
website, 95 percent found it  
helpful and 84 percent found  
it easy to use. (Parent  
perceptions survey, 2015.)

Language: English ▾ Need Help? 888.291.9811 FOR PARENTS FOR PROGRAMS

Parent Aware

HOME LEARN SEARCH

New Search | Compare (0/3) | Favorites 0


1 How would you like to search? ☒ by location ☐ by name


2 Where would you like to search?


Minnesota programs only.

Distance is calculated by using an address or area's most central point. Use a complete address in your search for the most accurate results.  
Example: "123 Front Street Minneapolis"

3 What type of program are you searching for? Select all that apply  
Learn more about types of child care and early learning programs

  
**Centers and Preschools**  
Care typically provided in a center or school and in age-based groups.

  
**Family Child Care**  
Care provided in a home that has been licensed for a group of children of mixed ages.

  
**Head Start**  
Provide comprehensive educational, health, nutritional and social services for income-eligible families. [More information.](#)

search



# Recent changes to Parent Aware

**Continuous quality improvement** is foundational to Parent Aware.

We tested **Parent Aware Star Ratings** to help *children do better*.

- **Parent Aware Validation Study**

## **Other steps:**

- Reviewed new research
- Asked for feedback from:
  - Early learning experts
  - Program leaders
  - Community leaders and advocates
  - Families

# Recent changes to Parent Aware

## What we learned:

### Validation study:

Children made gains on critical school readiness skills

Children in 3 and 4 Star Rated programs made greater gains

Children in low-income families made greater gains

But *we could still do better.*

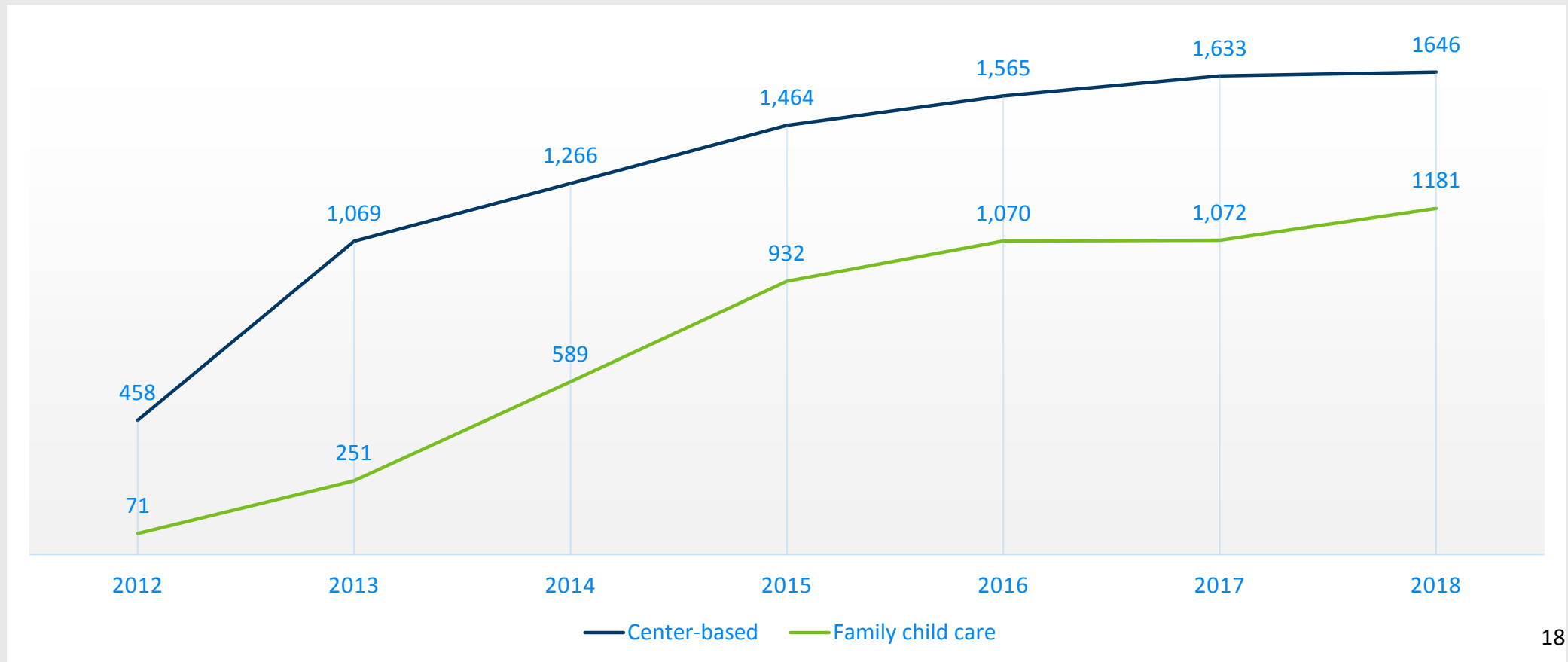
# Recent changes to Parent Aware

Parent Aware was “remodeled”.

- Updated Standards and Indicators
- Released October 2016
- Provided increased flexibility
  - More rating pathways
  - Flexible coaching options
  - Documentation options
  - Simplified training choices
  - More robust financial supports

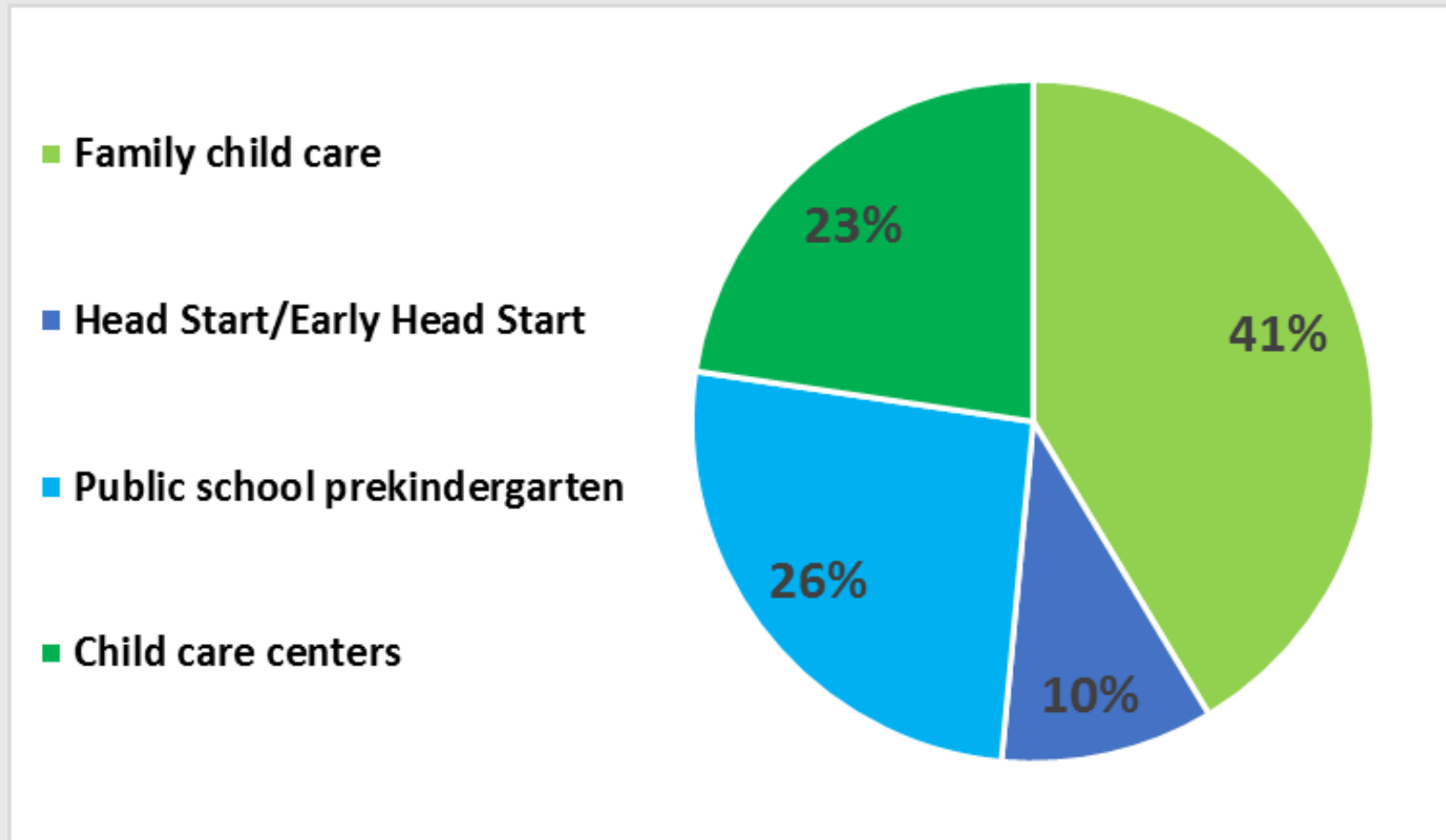
# Parent Aware rated programs

Number of Parent Aware rated programs, growth by year:



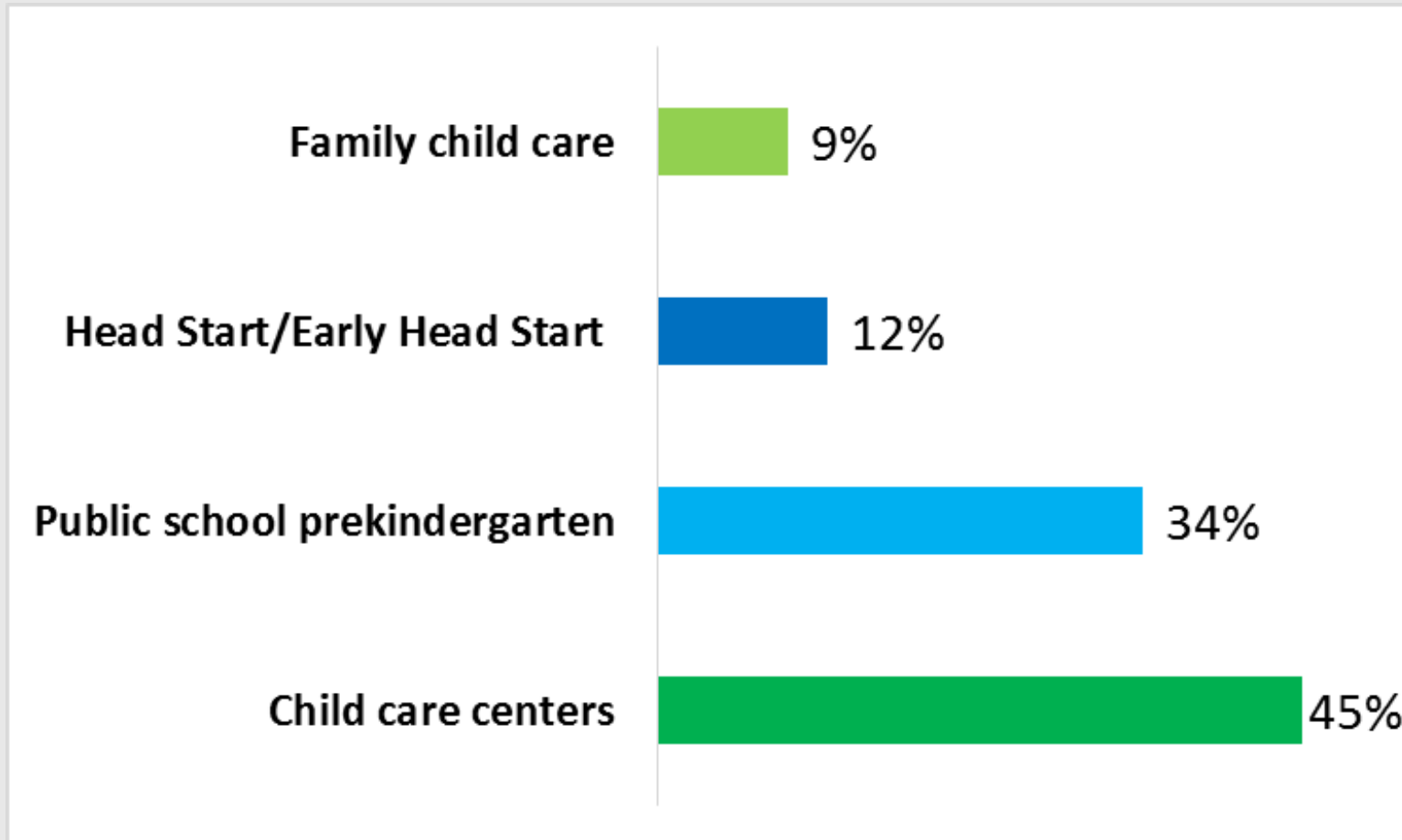
# Parent Aware rated programs

Percent Parent Aware rated programs, by program type:



# Children served by Parent Aware rated programs

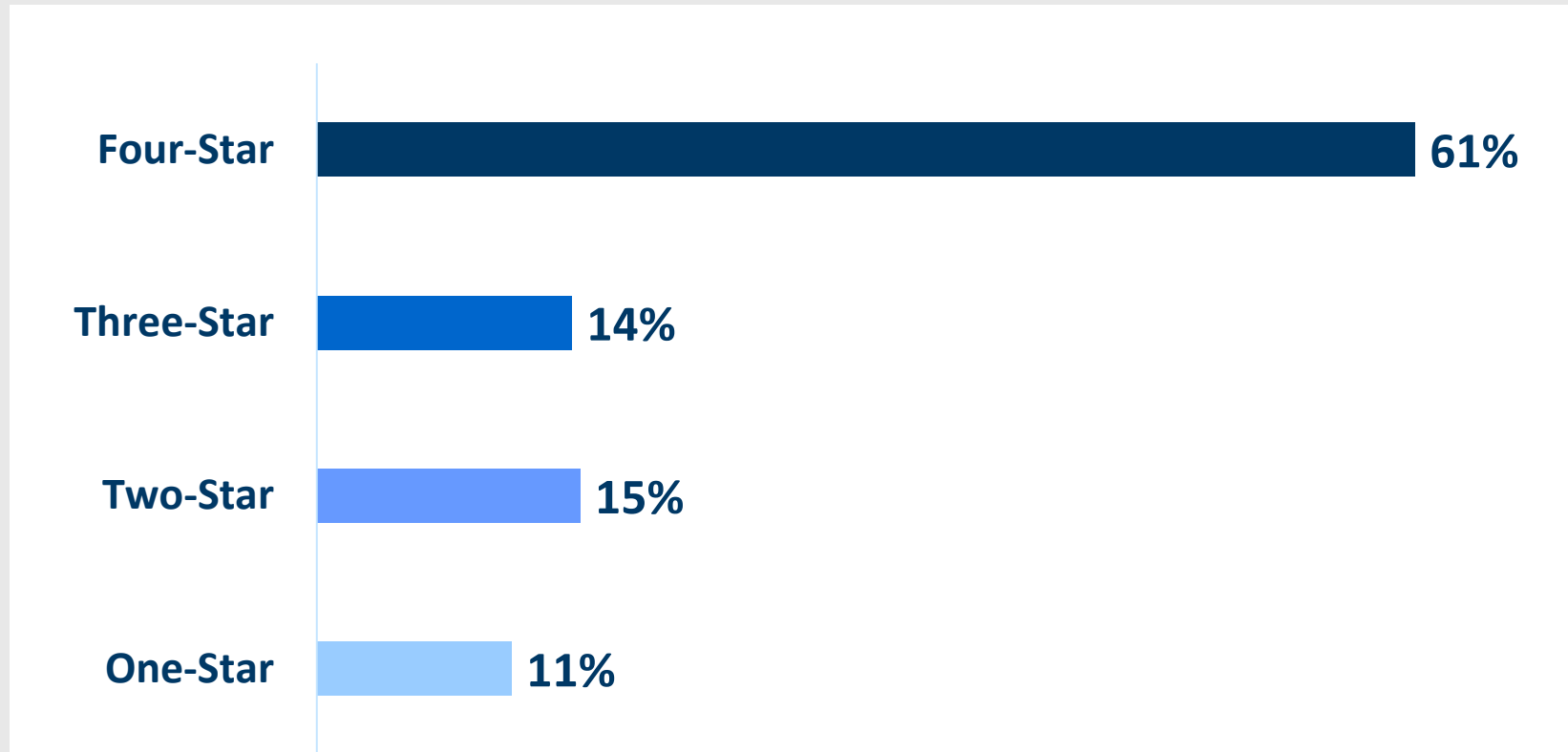
Children ages 0 – 5 in Parent Aware Rated programs, by program type:





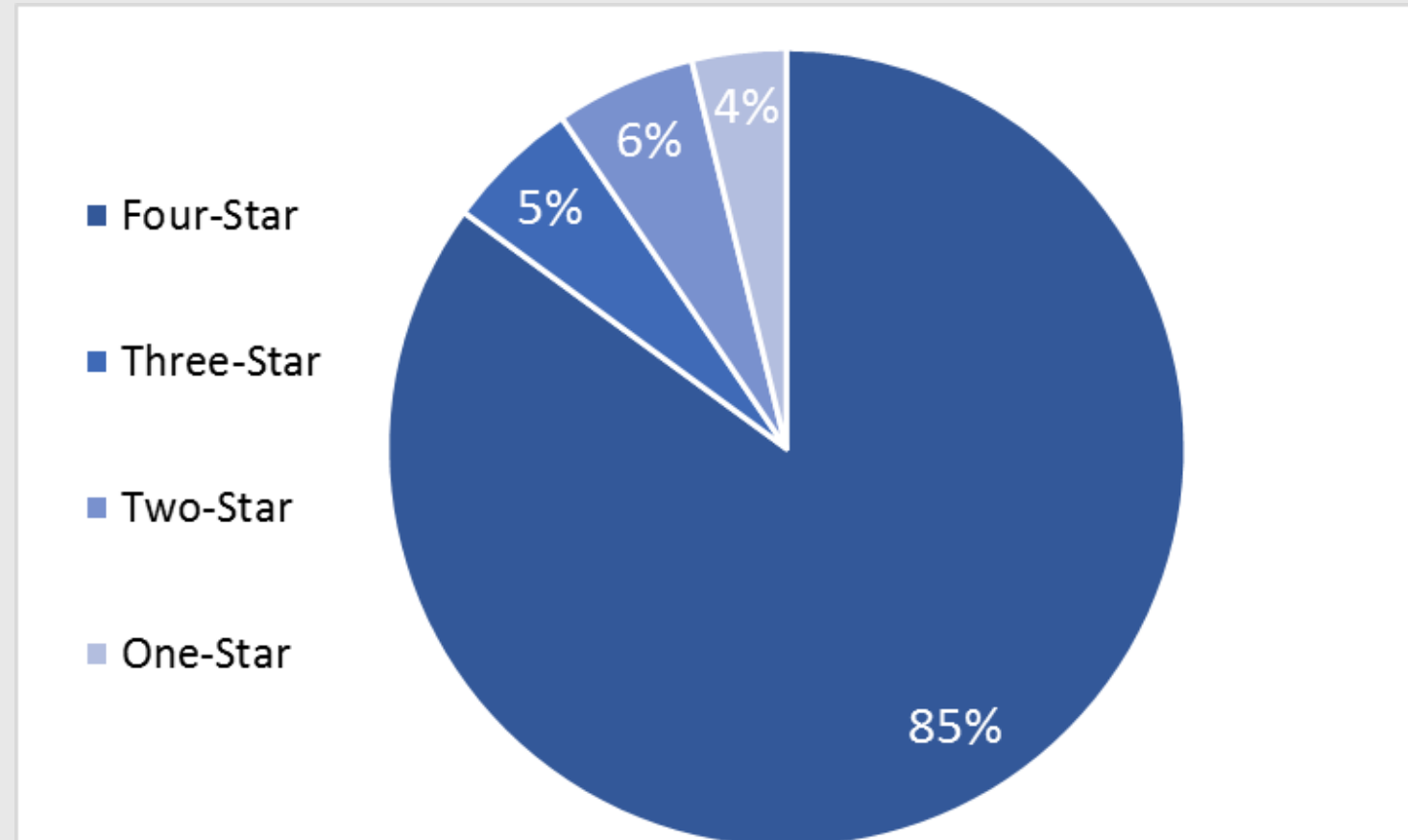
# Parent Aware rated programs

Percent of Parent Aware rated programs, by rating level:



# Children served by Parent Aware rated programs

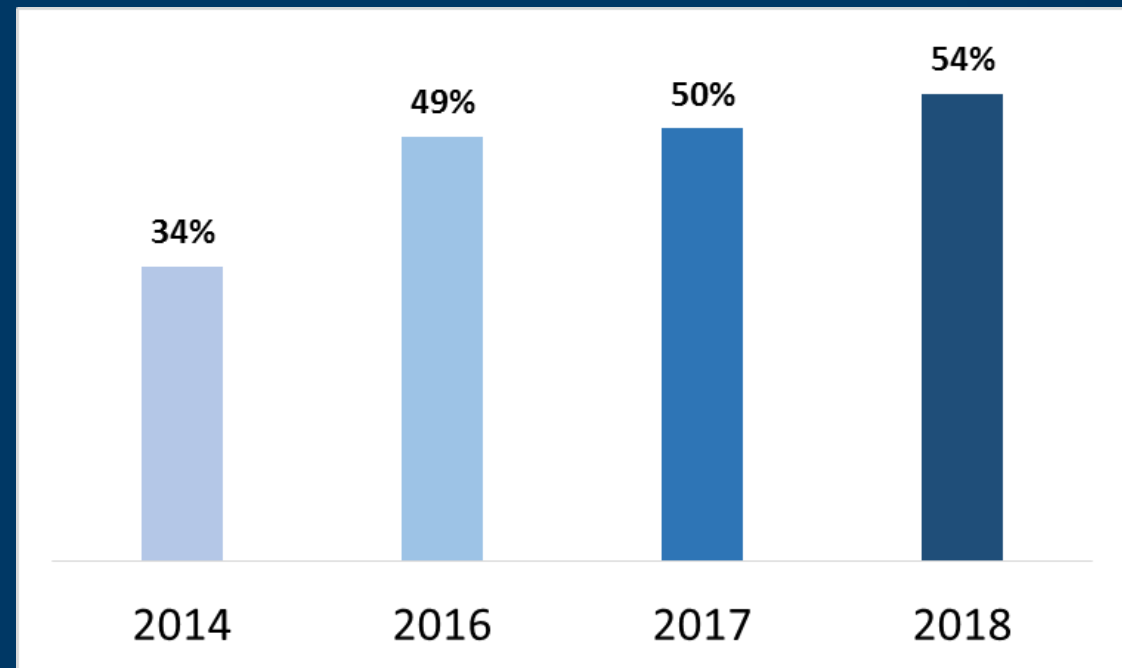
Children ages 0 – 5 in Parent Aware rated programs,  
by rating level:



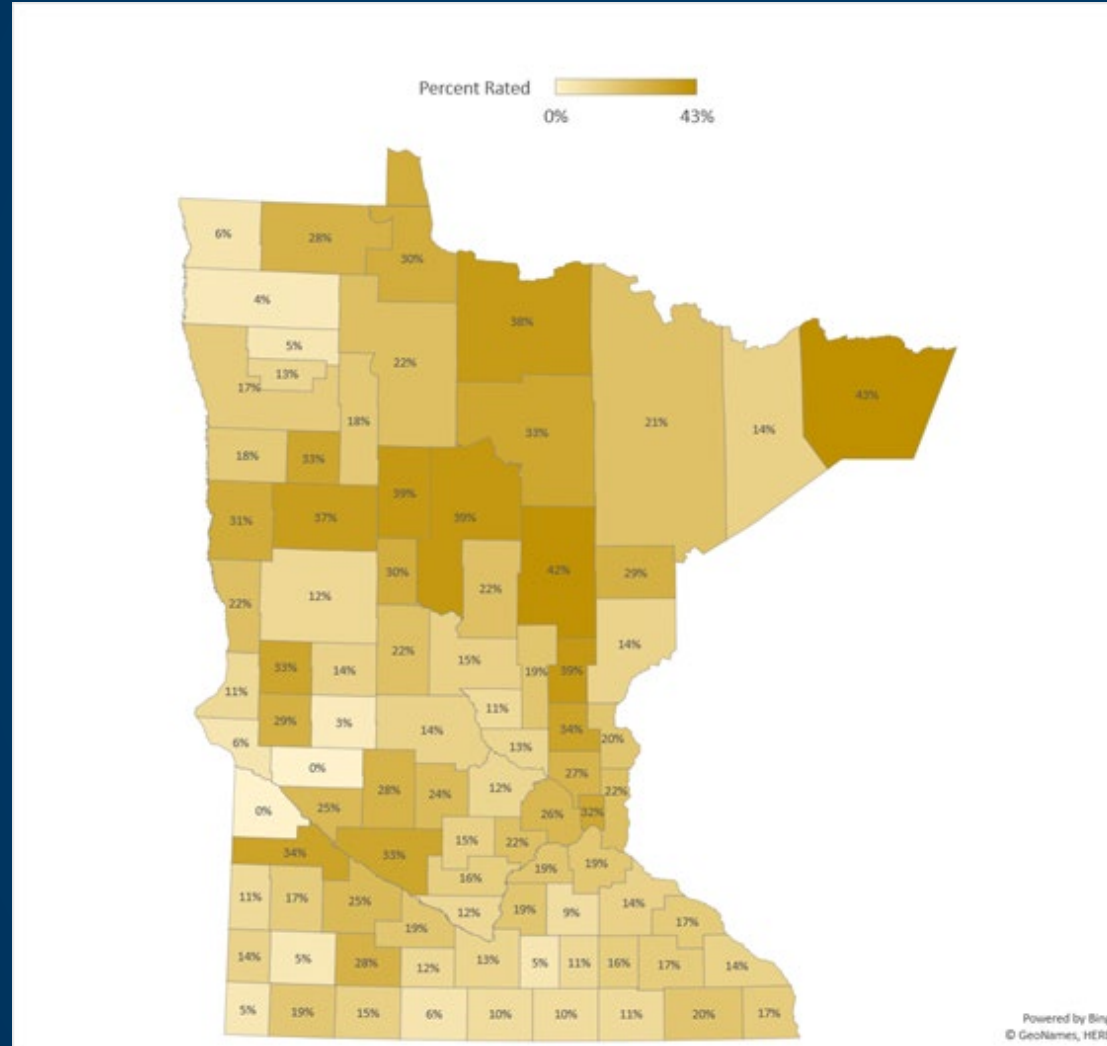
# Children served in Parent Aware Rated programs

## Children receiving CCAP ages 0 - 5:

- As of July 2018, 10,360 attend a Rated program (54%)
- Up from 34% in 2014
- Goal: 65% of CCAP children ages 0 – 5 in Parent Aware rated programs by 2021



# Number of Rated, licensed child care programs by county



**49 counties have 25%  
Rated or higher**

**18 counties have 10%  
Rated or lower**

**2 counties have no rated,  
licensed child care  
programs**

# Thank You!

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