



Summary report of STARS participation January, 2010

Vermont's STep Ahead Recognition System (STARS) continues to meet its goals: that of engaging the maximum number of regulated child care, early education and afterschool programs in achieving standards that are associated with better outcomes for children, families and the professionals who work with them.

- STARS is an agent for improving quality by engaging programs in investing in their program's growth. The number of participants has grown steadily since it began in 2004, with no indication that this will slow down.

Number of participants as of January, 2010 as compared to July, 2009

- 566 programs have submitted applications as of January, 2010 compared to 519 in July, 2009
- 470 programs hold certificates in STARS as of January 2010 (have completed application process) compared to 412 in July 2009
- 87 programs have not renewed participation in STARS, either the program closed or chose not to continue in STARS
- 18 programs with submitted applications are in process of completing the application compared to 25 in July.

The number of participating programs continues to increase. While all types of programs participate in STARS, there are still proportionally more licensed programs participating than registered programs. This is typical of registered and licensed program participation in local and state initiatives.

The rate of incoming applications increased. There has been an average of 39 applications in the last 5 quarters compared to the previously steady rate of an average of 24 applications each quarter.

- To meet the goal that STARS is an agent for improving quality, participants will represent the full range of achievements. This shows that STARS is attractive to all levels, not just those programs that have already demonstrated quality through other standards.

Programs participate in STARS at all star levels, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Number of stars achieved

	1 star	2 stars	3 stars	4 stars	5 stars	total
programs at level	31	48	126	159	106	464
percent of total	6.5%	10.0%	27.0%	34%	23.5%	100.0%

Table 2 shows the distribution of programs participating in STARS

Table 2 Programs in STARS

Type of program in STARS	January, 2010	July, 2009	April, 2009
registered family child care homes	133	111	103
licensed centers	149	132	111
public school preschool	104	87	74
licensed homes	16	15	14
Head Start programs	29	29	28
licensed afterschool programs	<u>39</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>33</u>
totals	470	412	363

Table 3 shows how the current distribution compares to the regional participation rates in April 2009. The areas that showed the greatest increase in participation during the quarter were Franklin/Grand Isle and Rutland Counties, with Windham showing the highest percent of programs participating in STARS.

Table 3. Number of programs participating in each AHS district

	1 star	2 stars	3 stars	4 stars	5 stars	total in January '10	total in July '09	percent of county
Franklin/Grand Isle	11	10	14	15	11	61	46	29%
Chittenden/Burlington	5	9	23	30	25	92	88	27%
Hartford/ White Rvr Jct	1	3	7	12	7	30	25	28%
Caledonia/St.Johnsbury	0	2	5	6	8	21	22	21%
Windham/Brattleboro*	3	4	13	8	8	36	32	40%
Washington/Montpelier	3	2	6	19	5	35	32	18%
Orleans/Newport	5	2	10	13	6	36	29	38%
Rutland		3	20	16	6	45	34	26%
Windsor/Springfield	1	2	5	8	5	21	19	27%
Bennington	1	4	6	9	14	34	32	32%
Lamoille/Morrisville	1	4	10	10	4	29	26	33%
Addison/Middlebury		3	7	13	7	30	27	27%

total	31	48	126	159	106	470	363	
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Summary of findings

STARS continues to be an agent for improving quality by engaging programs in investing in their program's growth. The number of participants has grown steadily, with no indication that this will slow down (steady-to-increasing rate of submission).

The participants continue to represent the full range of program type and regional participation. STARS attracts participants in all star levels, demonstrating wide appeal and programs' interest in receiving recognition for all achievements.

Participating programs are invested in renewing their participation. Renewing programs with room to grow consistently increase their achievements over time, even in subsequent years – especially in supporting staff and in connecting with their families and the community.