**Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (T-QRIS)**

 **Guiding Principles**

With regard to ***Children and Families***, CT’s Quality Rating and Improvement System will

1. Provide families with tools and resources to inform decisions when choosing early care and education programs.
2. Assist families to choose high quality programs.

With regard to ***Early Care and Education Programs and Settings***, CT’s Quality Rating and Improvement System will

1. Rate programs using comparable standards that demonstrate high quality across all settings.
2. Reflect the diversity of settings while also holding programs accountable to the process and standards of the system.

With regard to ***systems***, CT’s Quality Rating and Improvement System will

1. Simplify and reduce duplication in reporting, and respond efficiently to the provider community.
2. Provide incentives in many forms, not just financial.
3. Separate technical assistance/support from enforcement/monitoring.
4. Provide standards that make something happen and not be redundant to standards in other systems used in the QRIS.
5. Make use of local community organizations to develop relationships for quality.
6. Establish and maintain a system that can be sustained over time.