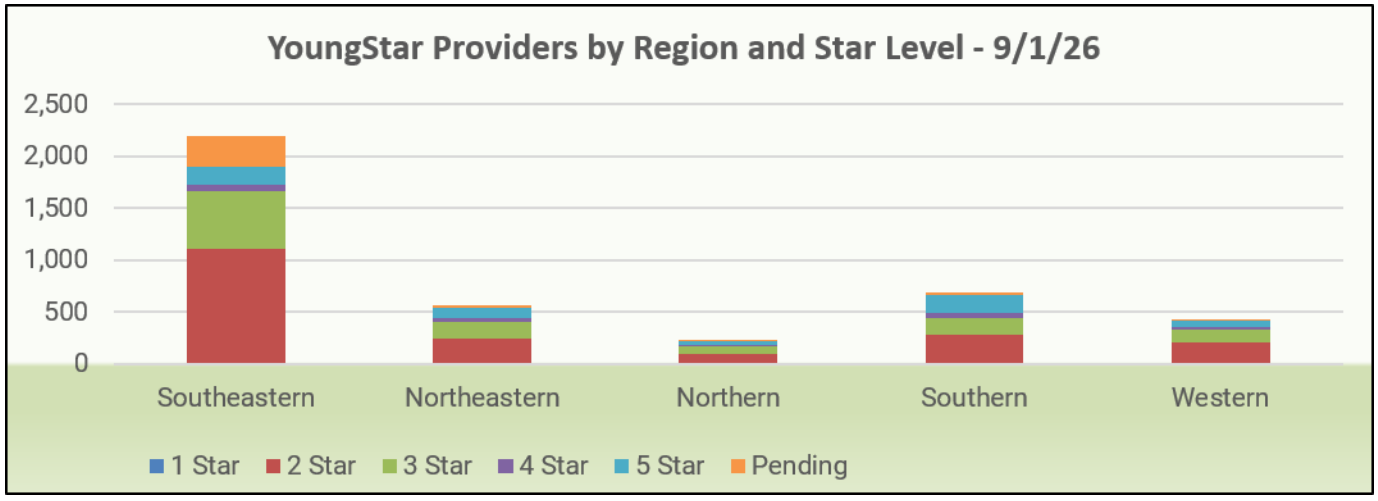
Narrative of Monthly Report
September 2026

YoungStar has transitioned to a new service provider in 2023. There are now five YoungStar Regions instead of six. The Milwaukee and Kenosha/Racine Regions have been merged into the Southeastern Region. Waukesha County is now part of the Southeastern Region. These changes and adjustments are reflected in the data.

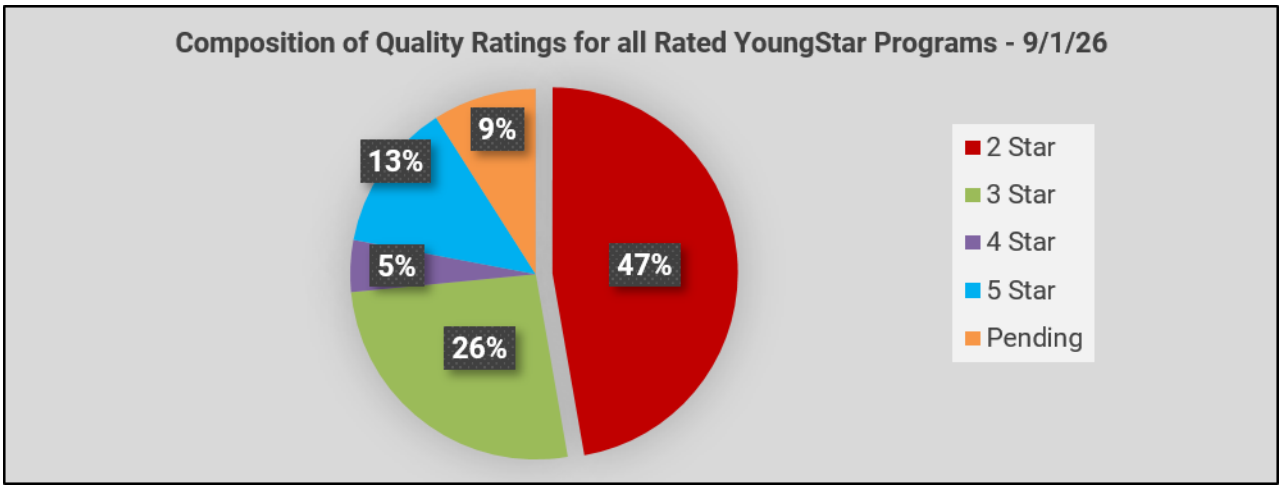
For the month of September, the following are notable YoungStar statistics.

★ **Participation and Rating Composition:**
We currently have 4,090 programs participating in YoungStar. This is an decrease of 10 programs as compared to last month. The chart and graph below show the rating composition by region for the current month.

	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star	Pending	TOTAL
Southeastern	1	1,108	549	61	176	294	2,189
Northeastern	0	243	159	44	93	26	565
Northern	0	95	74	12	32	5	218
Southern	0	281	160	53	170	21	685
Western	0	204	130	15	61	23	433
Total	1	1,931	1,072	185	532	369	4,090



Data as of 9/30/2026

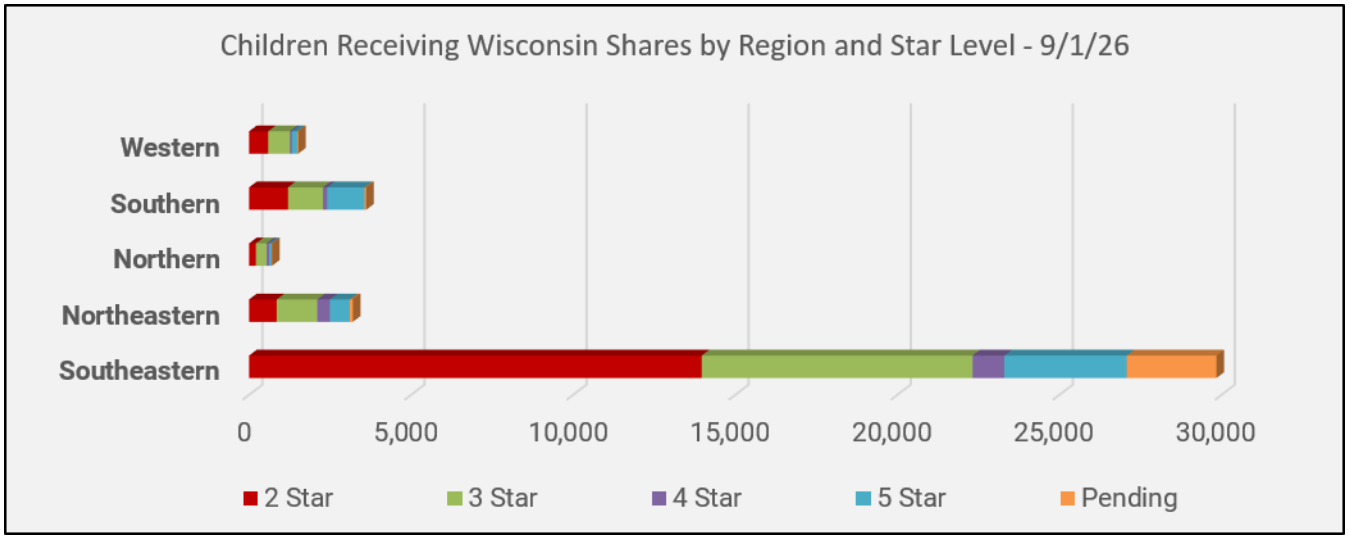


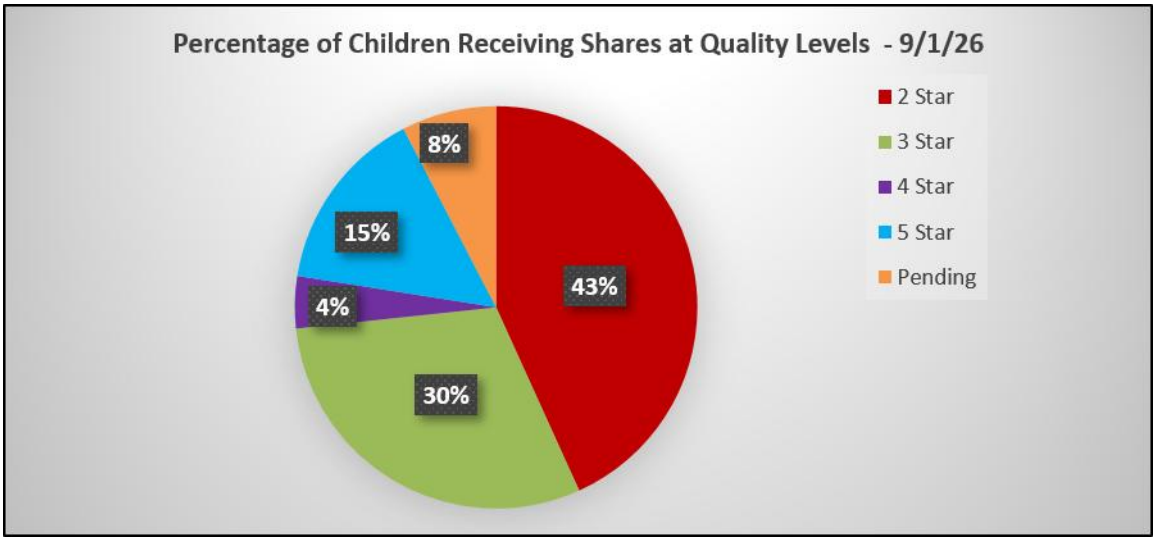
★ **Rating and Wisconsin Shares Data**

The total number of programs currently rated was 3,721. There were an additional 369 programs with pending ratings. There were 3,023 programs with open Wisconsin Shares authorizations when the data was run for this report. There were children receiving Wisconsin Shares as shown by region, age, and star level.

	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star	Pending	Total
Southeastern	13,963	8,355	982	3,775	2,769	29,844
Northeastern	849	1,257	383	620	93	3,202
Northern	206	336	74	81	11	708
Southern	1,198	1,081	132	1,152	49	3,612
Western	589	669	59	163	34	1,514
Total	16,805	11,698	1,630	5,791	2,956	38,880

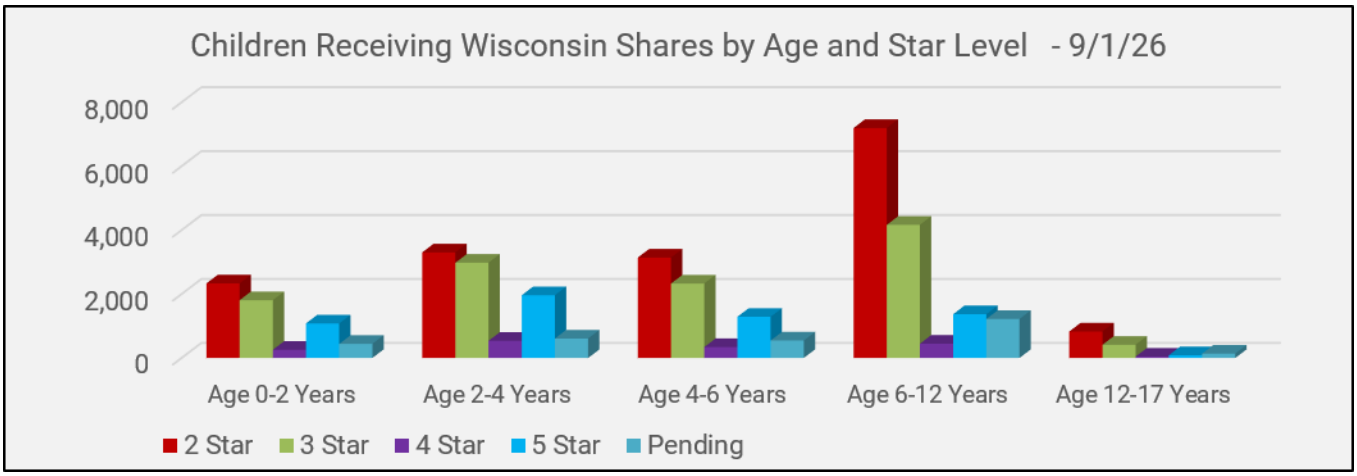
Data as of 9/30/2026





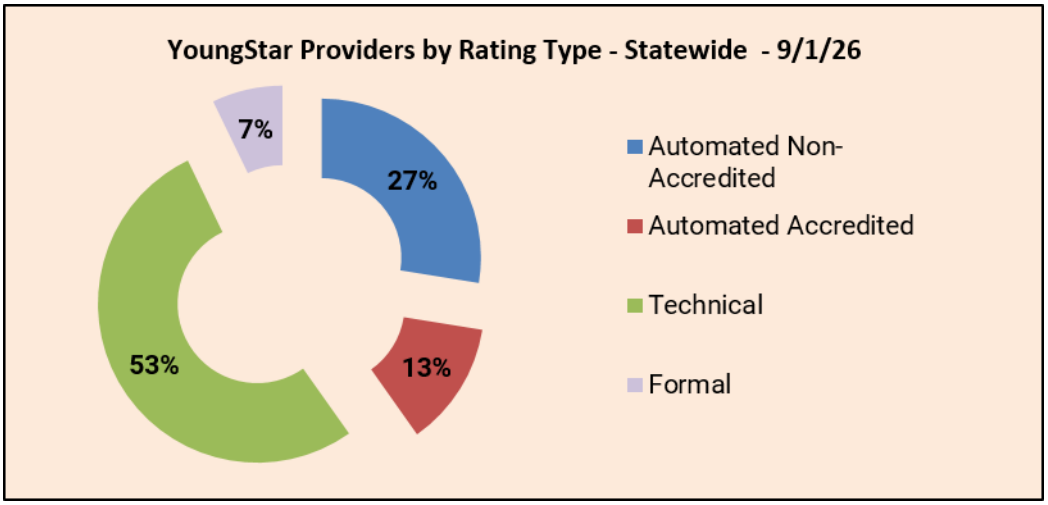
	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star	Pending	Total
Age 0-2 Years	2,334	1,808	257	1,082	442	5,923
Age 2-4 Years	3,304	2,981	539	1,964	609	9,397
Age 4-6 Years	3,142	2,331	342	1,288	547	7,650
Age 6-12 Years	7,196	4,164	448	1,369	1,222	14,399
Age 12-17 Years	829	414	44	88	136	1,511
Total	16,805	11,698	1,630	5,791	2,956	38,880

Data as of 9/30/2026



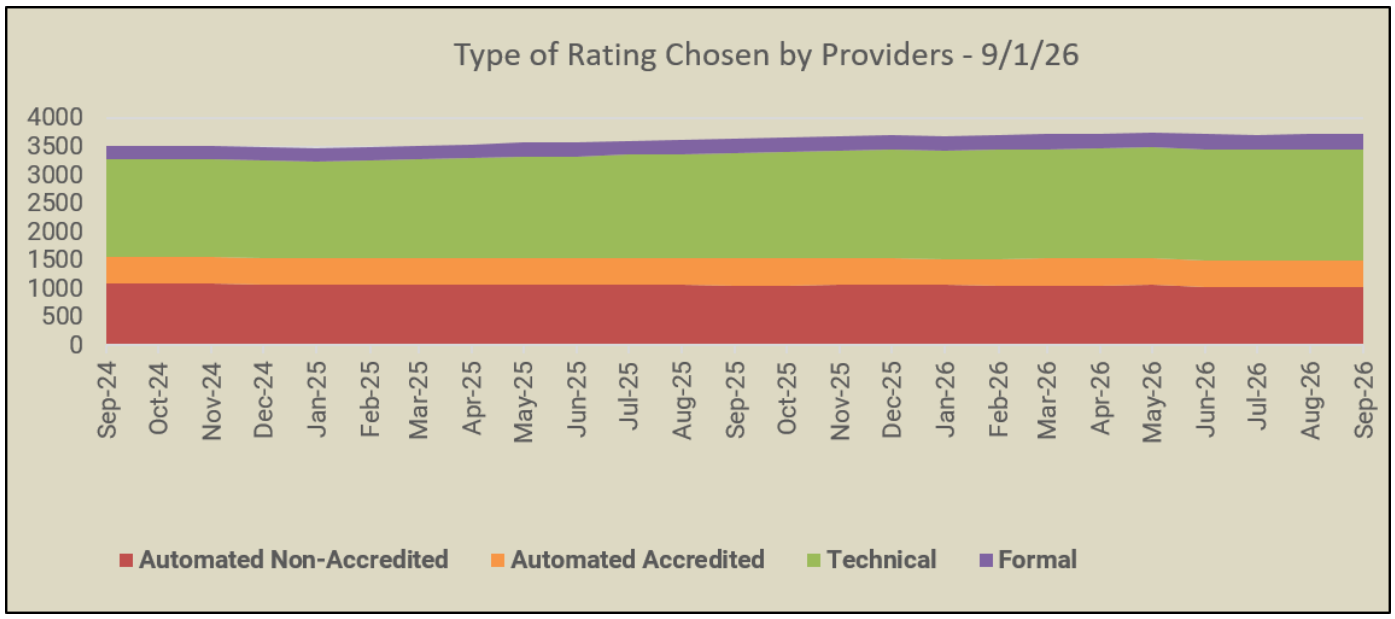
★ **Rating History and Composition:**

The composition of currently rated programs is shown below.

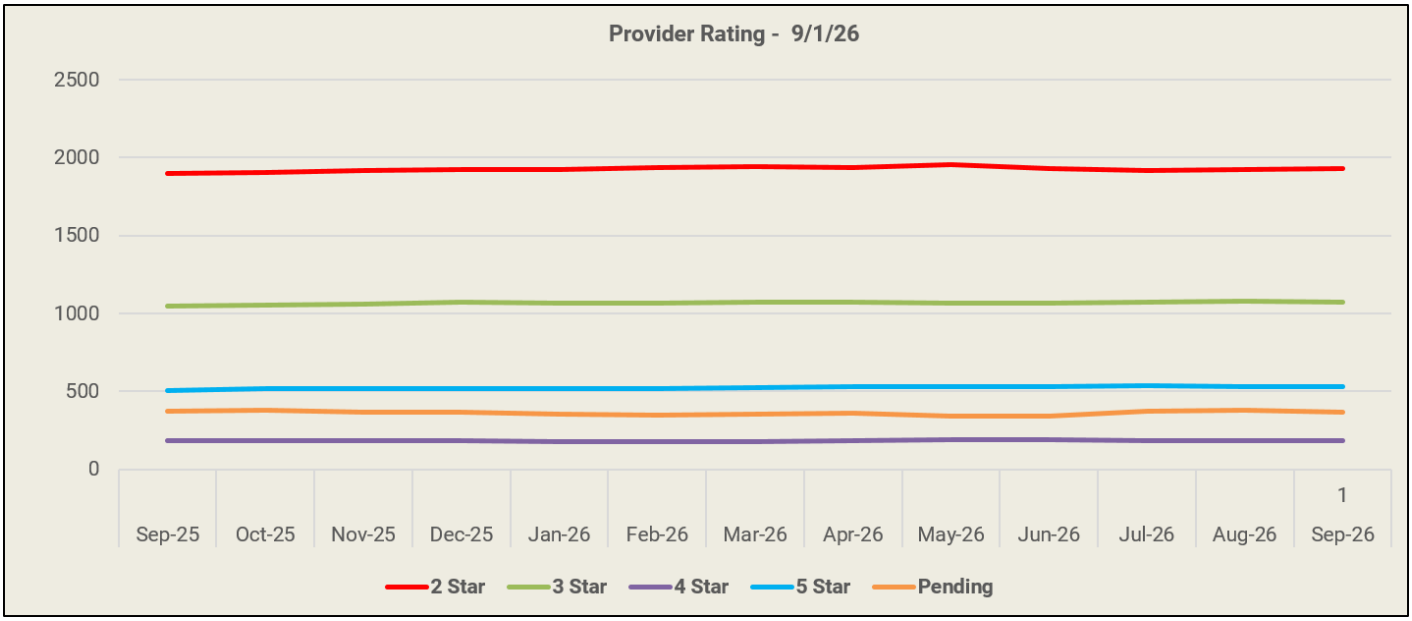


Data as of 9/30/2026

The graph below shows the movement in rating type chosen by providers over the past two years.



The graph below shows movement in rating levels for providers over the past year.

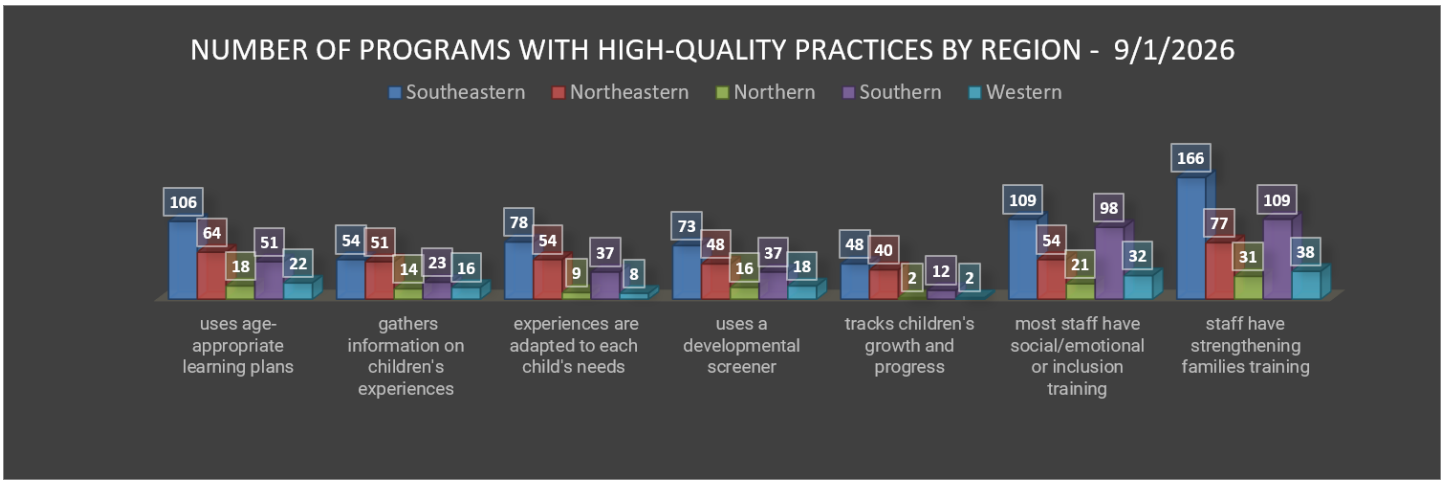


Data as of 9/30/2026

★ High-Quality Practices:

As part of the YoungStar evaluation process, programs can be evaluated for having key high-quality practices. The number of programs with high-quality practices is shown below by region.

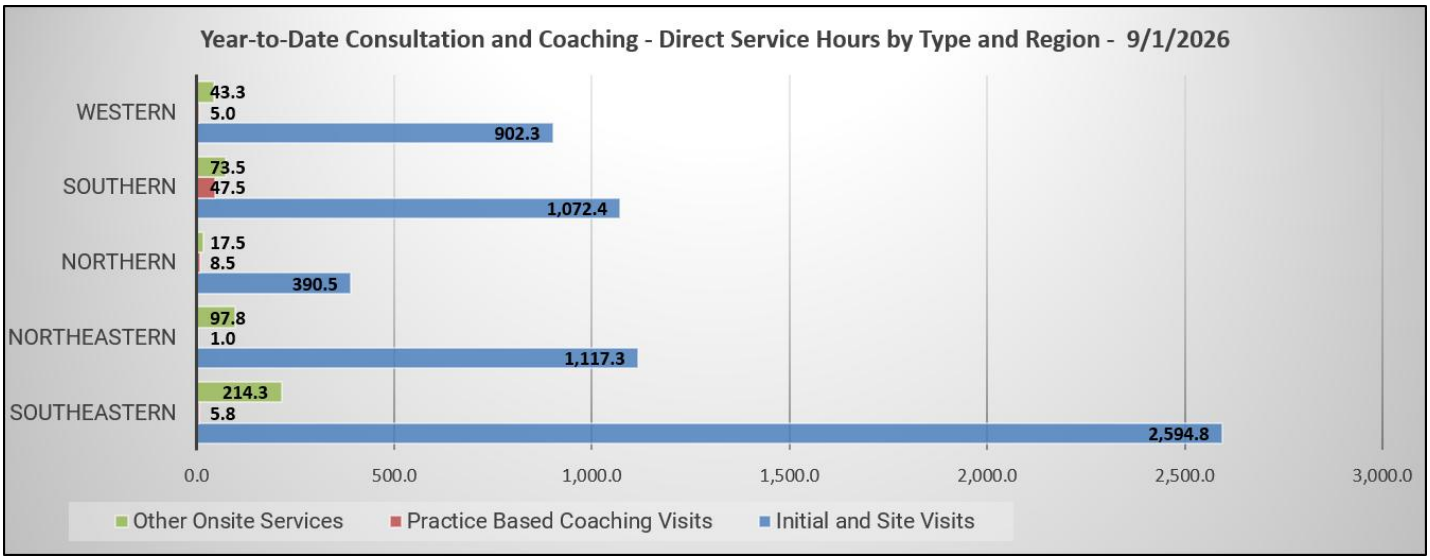
	uses age-appropriate learning plans	gathers information on children's experiences	experiences are adapted to each child's needs	uses a developmental screener	tracks children's growth and progress	most staff have social/emotional or inclusion training	staff have strengthening families training
Southeastern	106	54	78	73	48	109	166
Northeastern	64	51	54	48	40	54	77
Northern	18	14	9	16	2	21	31
Southern	51	23	37	37	12	98	109
Western	22	16	8	18	2	32	38
Total	**261**	**158**	**186**	**192**	**104**	**314**	**421**



Data as of 9/30/2026

★ Onsite Services:

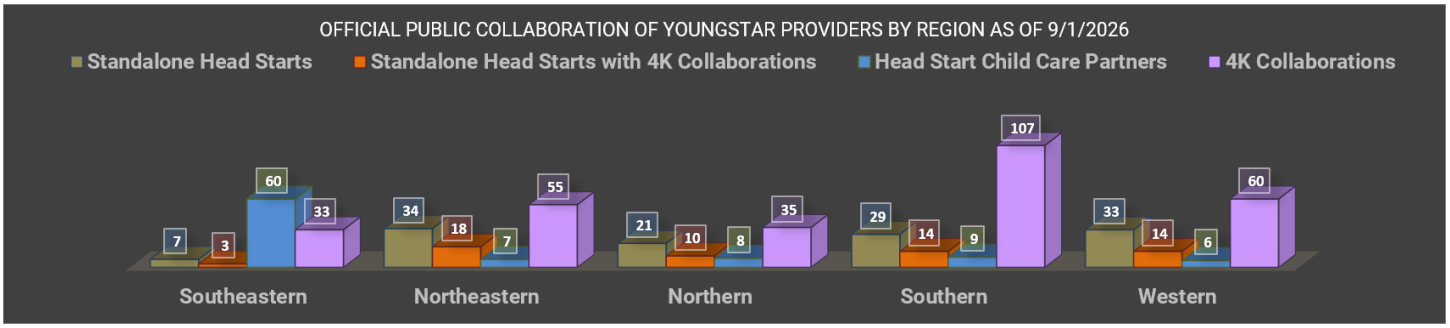
YoungStar provides thousands of hours of direct consultation and coaching services every year to help early care programs with quality improvement across the state. Direct services include things like site visits, practice based coaching services, and formal rating verification visits. The number of hours provided year-to-date are shown in the chart below by type and region.

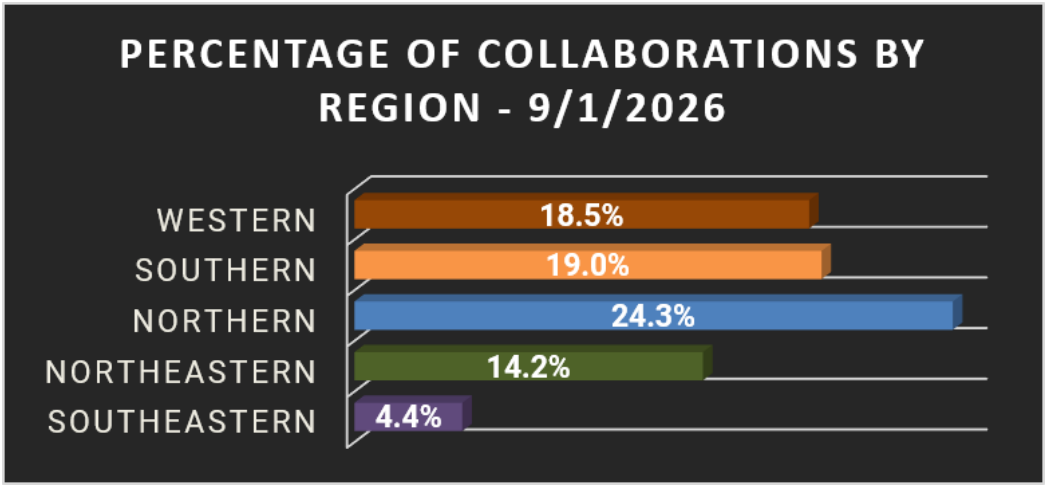


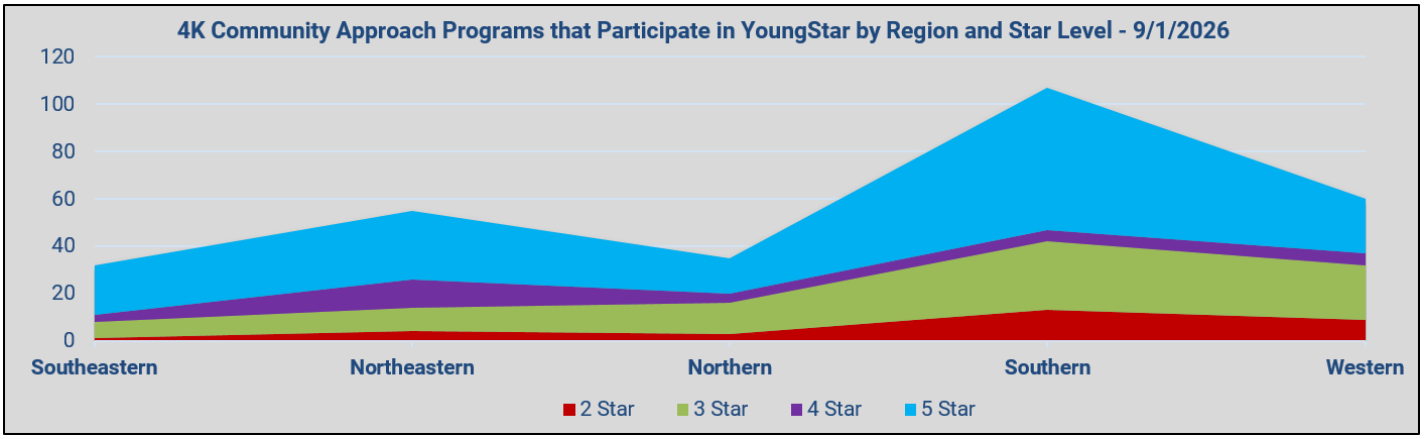
★ YoungStar Data on Partnerships:

Region	Standalone Head Starts	Standalone Head Starts with 4K Collaborations	Head Start Child Care Partners	4K Collaborations	YoungStar Providers
Southeastern	7	3	60	33	2,189
Northeastern	34	18	7	55	565
Northern	21	10	8	35	218
Southern	29	14	9	107	685
Western	33	14	6	60	433
Statewide	**124**	**59**	**90**	**290**	**4,090**

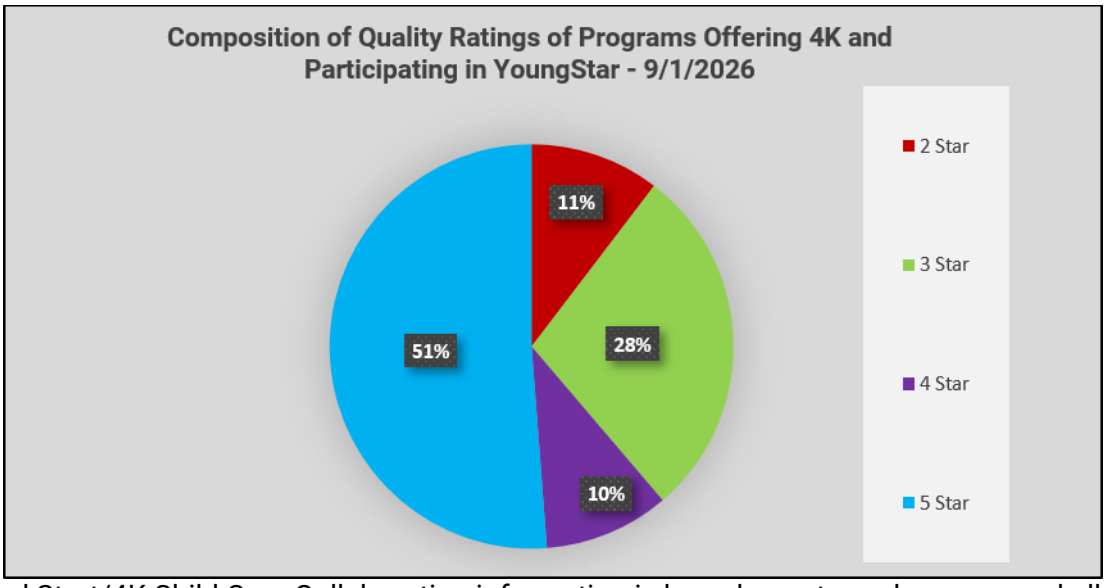
Data as of 9/30/2026







Data as of 9/30/2026



The Head Start/4K Child Care Collaboration information is based on returned surveys and all programs may not be included.

Please see https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/program/impact for more details.

Data as of 9/30/2026