

Narrative of Monthly Report January 2026

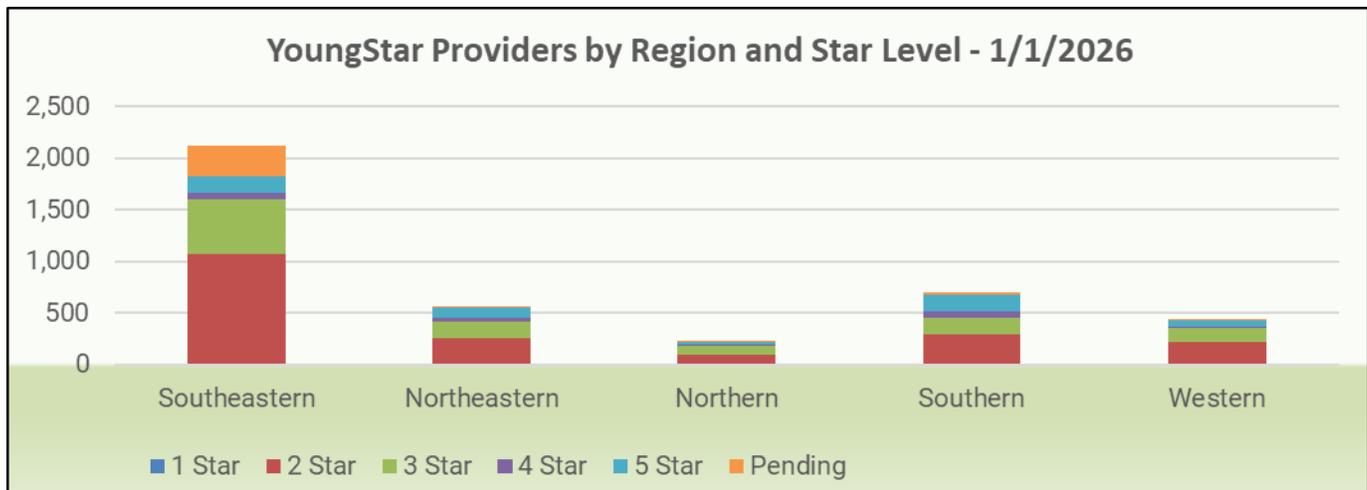
YoungStar has transitioned to a new service provider in 2023. There are now five YoungStar Regions instead of six. The Milwaukee and Kenosha/Racine Regions have been merged into the Southeastern Region. Waukesha County is now part of the Southeastern Region. These changes and adjustments are reflected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

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

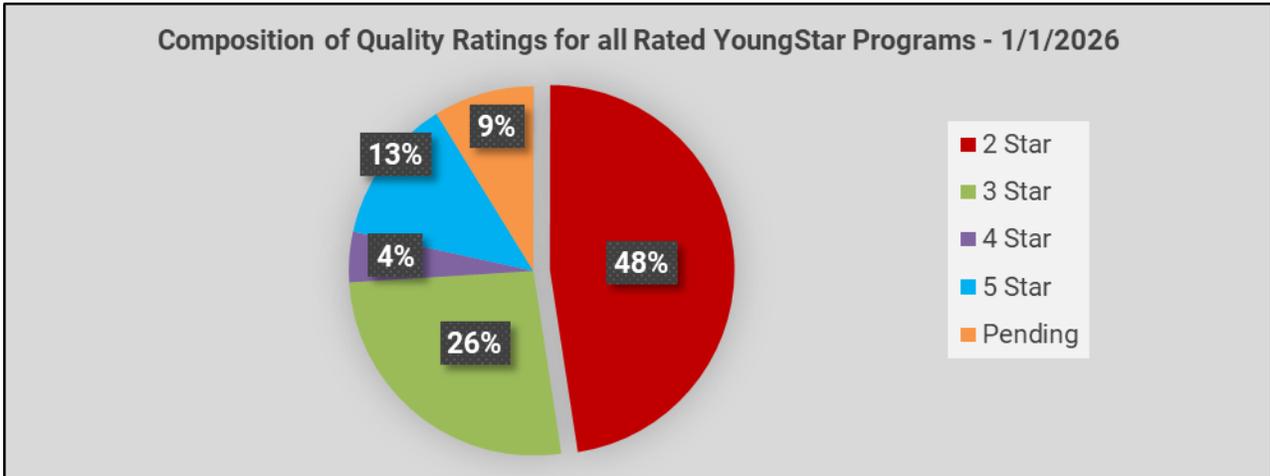
★ **Participation and Rating Composition:**

We currently have 4,046 programs participating in YoungStar. This is an decrease of 19 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	1,068	529	59	165	292	2,114
Northeastern	0	254	160	41	93	19	567
Northern	0	94	82	11	32	10	229
Southern	0	289	166	53	166	20	694
Western	0	219	132	15	61	15	442
Total	1	1,924	1,069	179	517	356	4,046



Data as of 1/31/2026

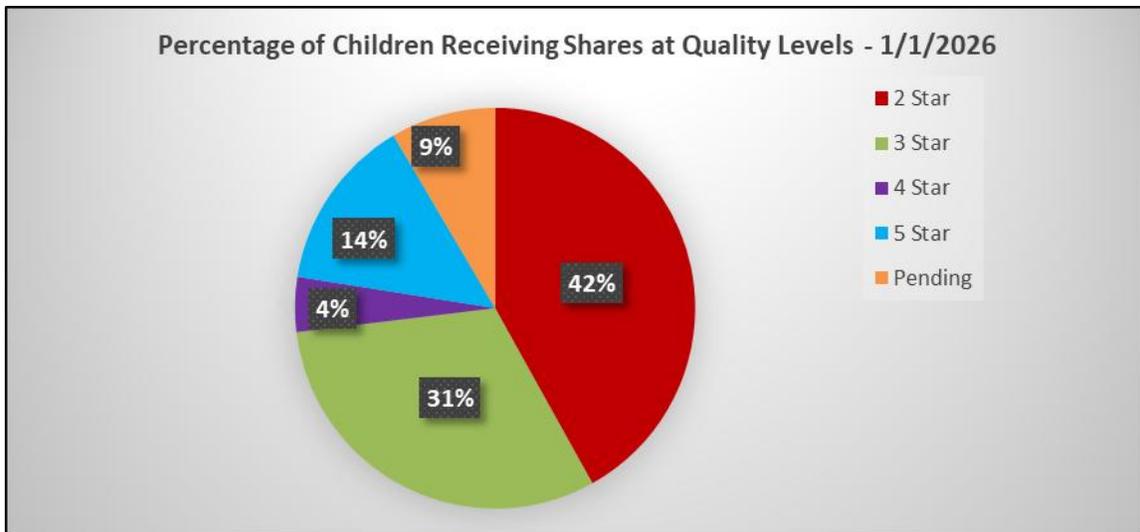
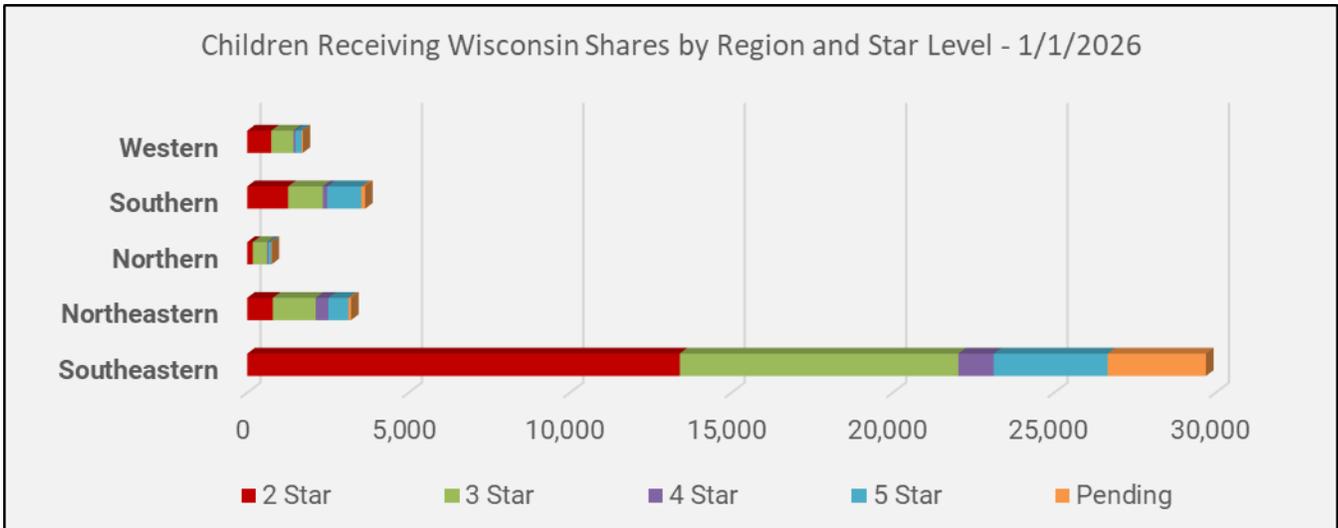


★ **Rating and Wisconsin Shares Data**

The total number of programs currently rated was 3,690. There were an additional 356 programs with pending ratings. There were 3,031 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.

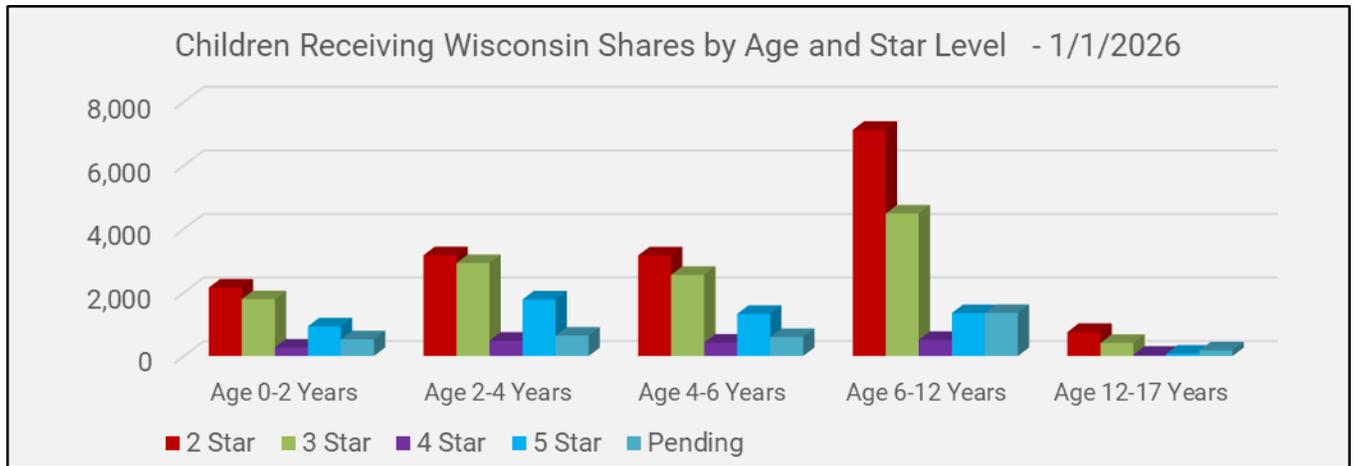
	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star	Pending	Total
Southeastern	13,398	8,631	1,097	3,526	3,049	29,701
Northeastern	788	1,331	395	619	84	3,217
Northern	169	442	42	81	20	754
Southern	1,267	1,074	137	1,054	119	3,651
Western	743	691	58	194	32	1,718
Total	16,365	12,169	1,729	5,474	3,304	39,041

Data as of 1/31/2026



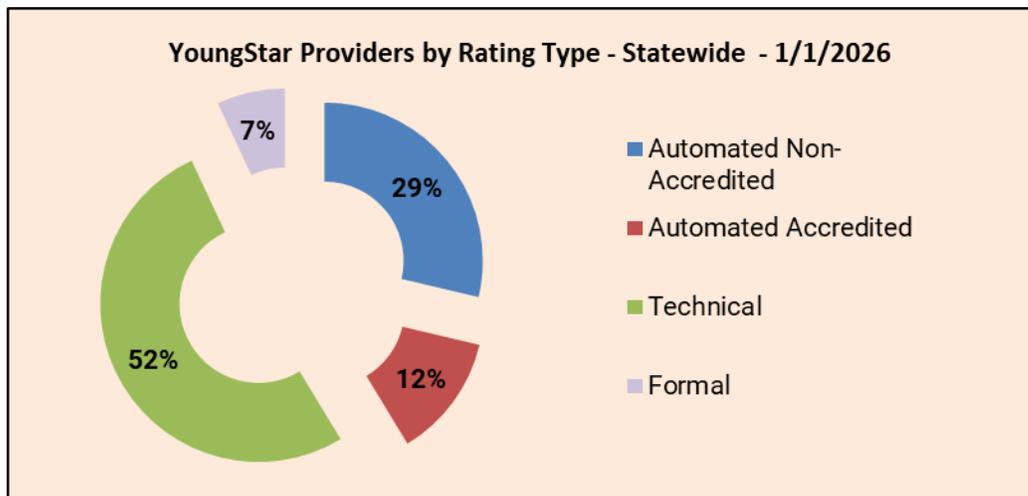
Data as of 1/31/2026

	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star	Pending	Total
Age 0-2 Years	2,152	1,790	270	936	527	5,675
Age 2-4 Years	3,174	2,925	483	1,782	644	9,008
Age 4-6 Years	3,166	2,555	423	1,327	598	8,069
Age 6-12 Years	7,116	4,486	510	1,353	1,357	14,822
Age 12-17 Years	757	413	43	76	178	1,467
Total	16,365	12,169	1,729	5,474	3,304	39,041



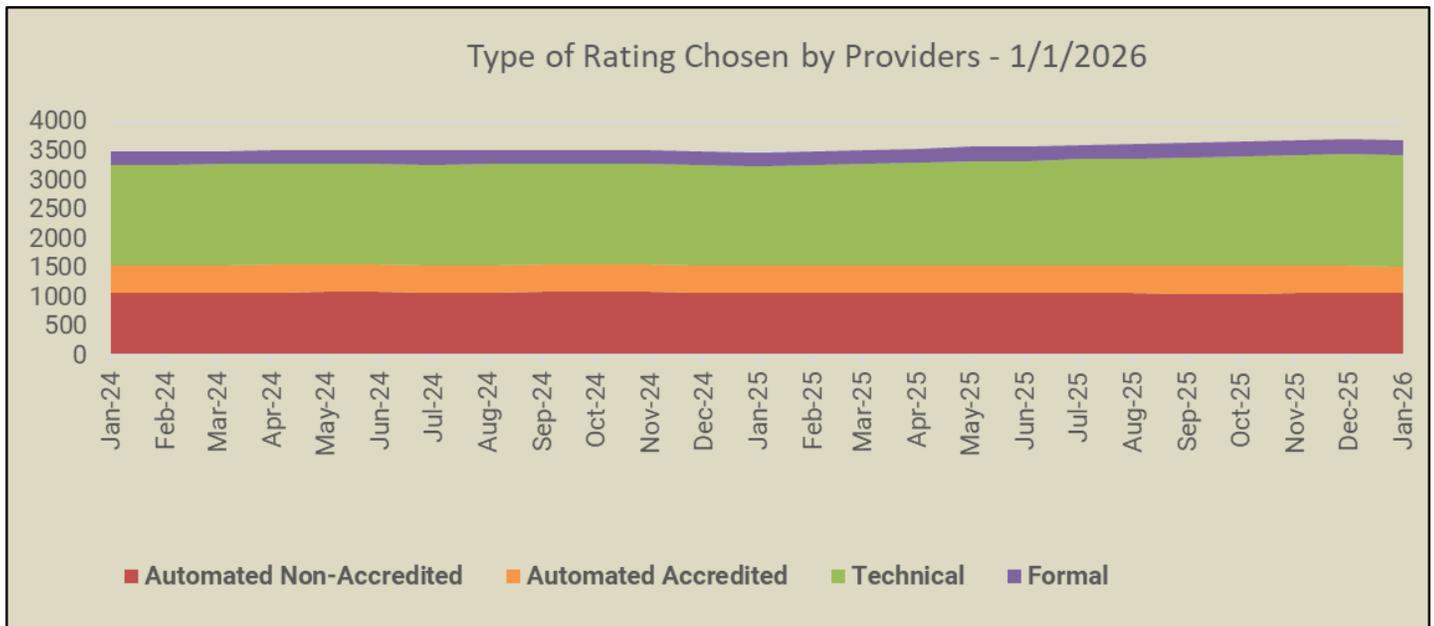
★ **Rating History and Composition:**

The composition of currently rated programs is shown below.

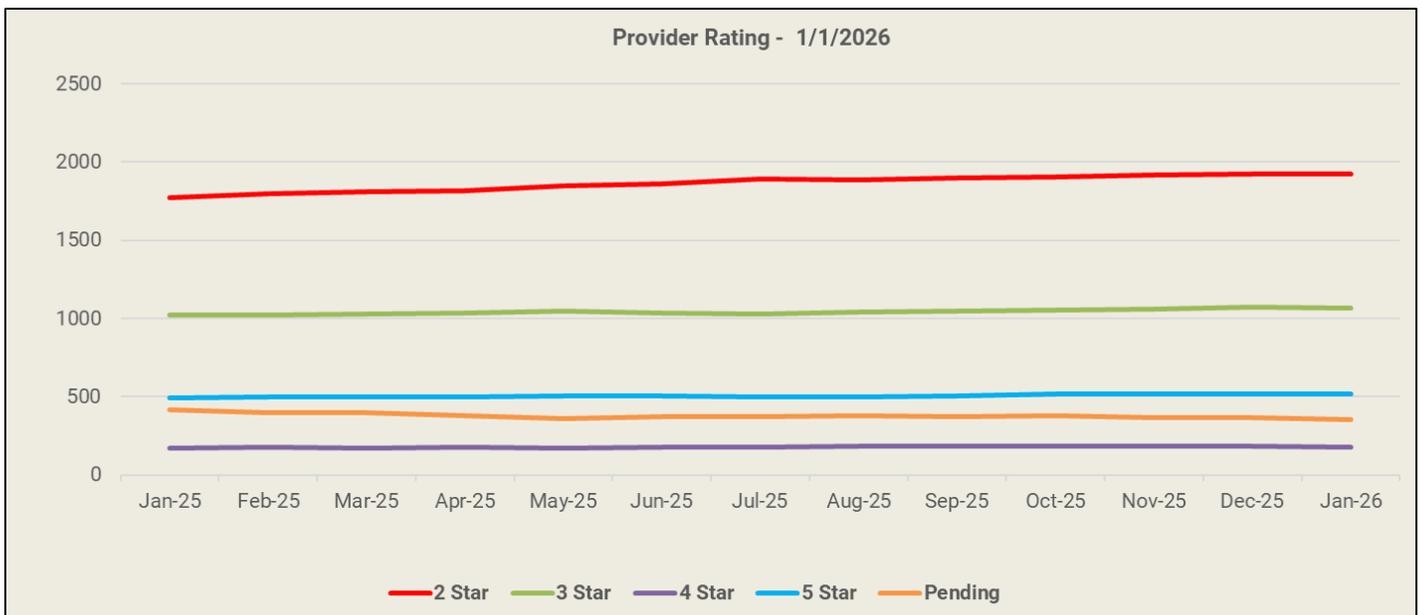


Data as of 1/31/2026

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.

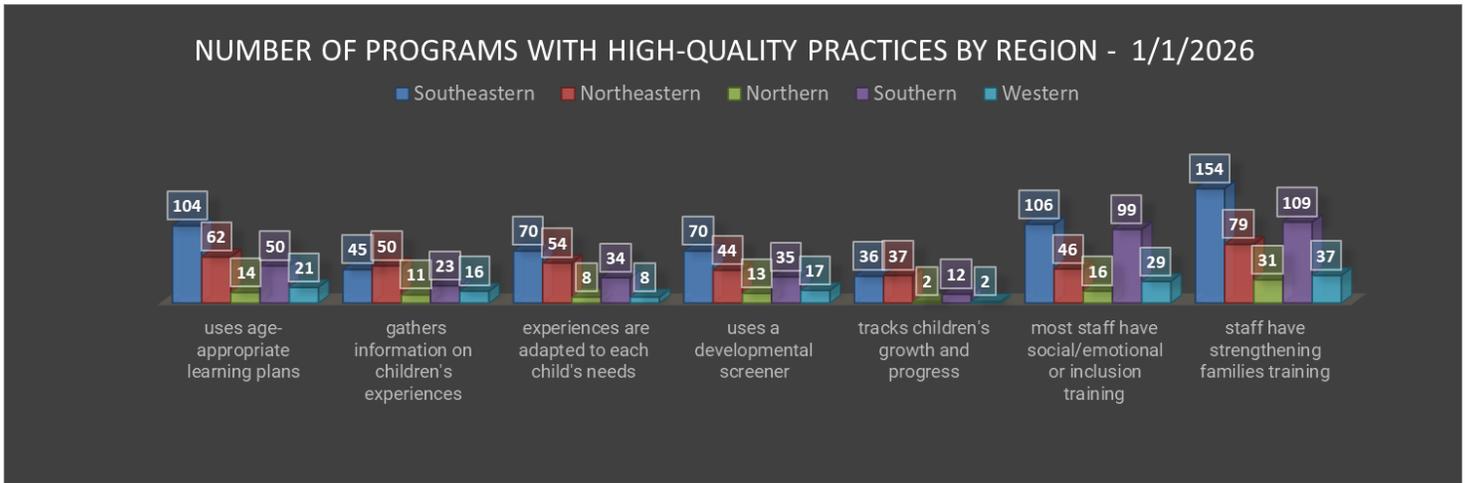


Data as of 1/31/2026

★ **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.

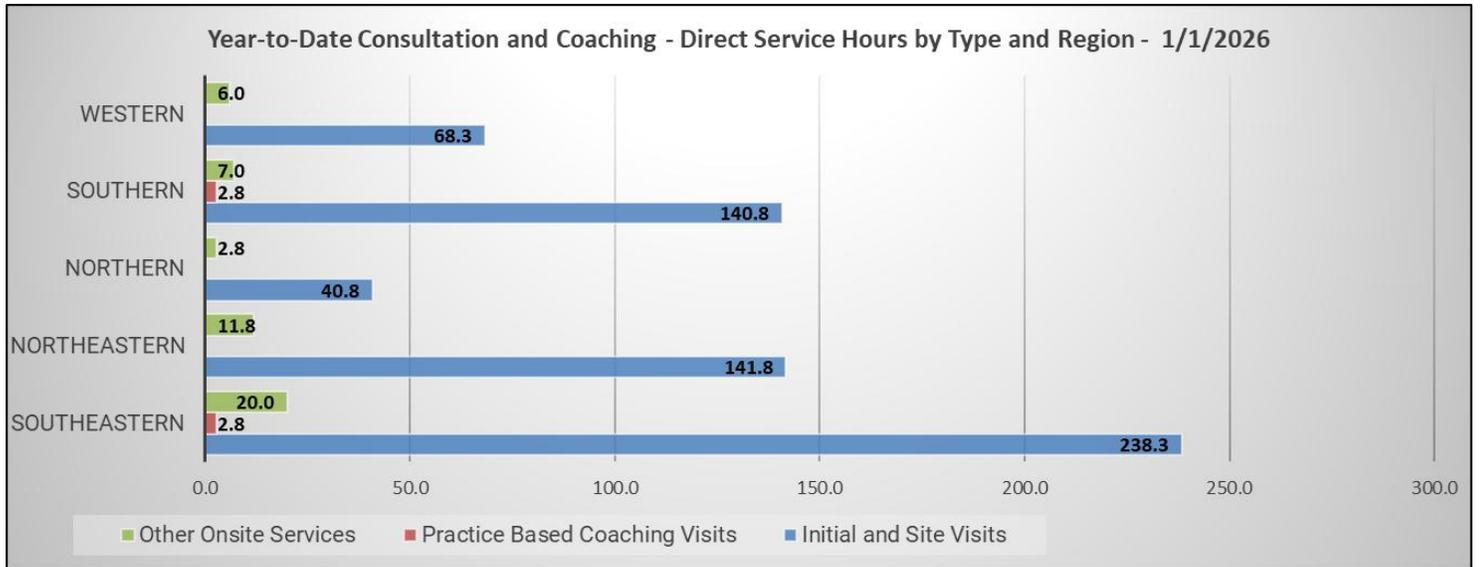
	uses age-appropriate learning plans	gathers information on children's experiences	experiences are adapted to each child's needs	uses a developmental screener	tracks children's growth and progress	most staff have social/emotional or inclusion training	staff have strengthening families training
Southeastern	104	45	70	70	36	106	154
Northeastern	62	50	54	44	37	46	79
Northern	14	11	8	13	2	16	31
Southern	50	23	34	35	12	99	109
Western	21	16	8	17	2	29	37
Total	251	145	174	179	89	296	410



Data as of 1/31/2026

★ **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.



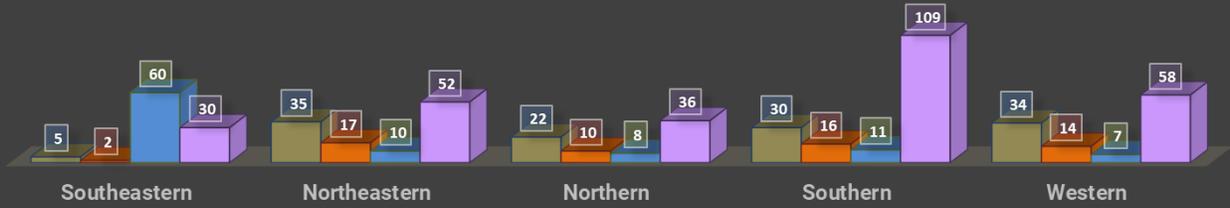
★ **YoungStar Data on Partnerships:**

Region	Standalone Head Starts	Standalone Head Starts with 4K Collaborations	Head Start Child Care Partners	4K Collaborations	YoungStar Providers
Southeastern	5	2	60	30	2,114
Northeastern	35	17	10	52	567
Northern	22	10	8	36	229
Southern	30	16	11	109	694
Western	34	14	7	58	442
Statewide	126	59	96	285	4,046

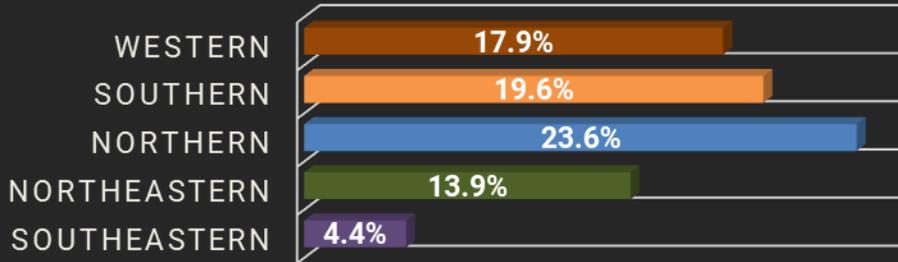
Data as of 1/31/2026

OFFICIAL PUBLIC COLLABORATION OF YOUNGSTAR PROVIDERS BY REGION AS OF 1/1/2026

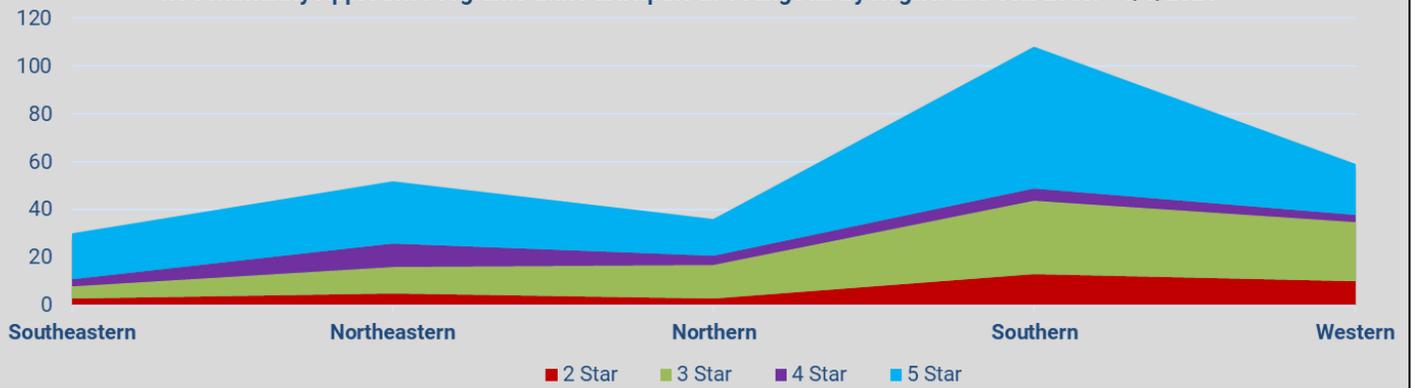
■ Standalone Head Starts ■ Standalone Head Starts with 4K Collaborations ■ Head Start Child Care Partners ■ 4K Collaborations



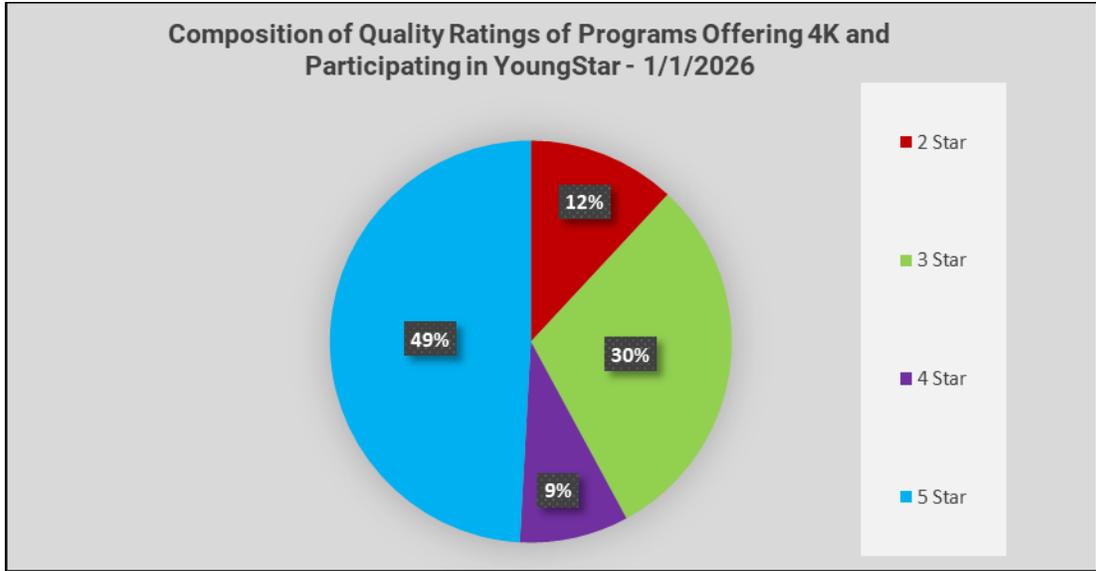
PERCENTAGE OF COLLABORATIONS BY REGION - 1/1/2026



4K Community Approach Programs that Participate in YoungStar by Region and Star Level - 1/1/2026



Data as of 1/31/2026



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.