

## PA Regional Keys to Early Learning

# Prequel Enables STARS to Shine

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*In order to fulfill its mission of improving early childhood education environments, Keystone STARS must handle massive amounts of information. Prequel Solutions streamlined the agency's business processes and increased its efficiency.*

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### **Company Overview**

Keystone STARS is Pennsylvania's program to promote continuous quality improvement in early learning and school age environments. The program was introduced in 2002 by Governor Mark Schweiker. It is managed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and further administered by six child care resource developers or "Regional Keys" in the state which provide assistance to providers. Keystone STARS estimates that 48% of regulated child care facilities in the state participate in the program.

### **Business Challenge**

Initially each Regional Key was utilizing a stand-alone software application to track their providers and perform their business functions. The result was duplication of work by each regional office and information that was inconsistent, sometimes outdated, and not readily available to all the resource developers.

### **Solution**

Prequel Solutions architected and designed a Web-Based Microsoft .NET application for the PA Regional Keys to Early Learning Quality to monitor applications, grants, and merit awards for Pennsylvania Day Care Providers along with the necessary generation of agreements, letters, mailing labels, and provider-specific alerts. Prequel Solutions performed a Gap Analysis Assessment of each Regional Key to determine whether a consolidated system could be created that would allow all Regional Keys to access a single Web-Based application and common database. This Gap Analysis resulted in the design and development of the Keystone STARS Information Data System (KIDS).



### Overview

#### Profile

Keystone STARS is responsible for monitoring and encouraging improvements in early childhood learning environments.

#### Business Need

Keystone STARS needed a better way to track facility ratings, applications, grants and awards. Also needed was a more efficient and timely means of generating agreements and mailings.

#### Benefits

Secure role-based access to common provider data.

Private web pages to allow users to view and update Day Care Providers, applications, and grants.

Automatic generation of Alerts based on pre-defined business rules.

Mail Merge capabilities to generate Agreements, Letters, and Mailing Labels based on user identified search criteria.

Several predefined reports as well as an AdHoc reporting feature.

Automated integration with external system that utilize common Provider data

#### Technology Services Provided

ASP.NET, C#, SQL Server 2000, SQL Server Reporting Technology Assessment Application Development Services Intranet Design

## ***Benefits***

With the implementation of the solution provided by Prequel Solutions the governing body of Pennsylvania Day Care Providers is now able to monitor activity more closely and in a timely manner. All of the members of the Regional Keys are able to access and update a single source for the data for all Day Care Providers. This effort reduced duplicate work being performed by each regional office. Consolidating the information into a single database also enabled the Regional Keys to have a better more comprehensive view for each of the Day Care Providers that they service. The automation of alerts has allowed the organization to provide a higher level of service to its customers, ensuring that critical dates for grant applications are always met.

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## ***For More Information***

For more information about Prequel Solutions call us at 724.820.1575

visit us on the web at: [www.prequelsolutions.com](http://www.prequelsolutions.com)

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