Am I Eligible to Apply?

An early learning program is eligible to apply for certification if it:

- has a current agreement with their Local Workforce Development Board (Board) to serve children who qualify for subsidized child care;
- has a permanent (non-expiring) license or registration from Child Care Regulation (CCR) with at least 12 months of licensing history or is regulated by and in good standing with the US military; and
- is not on corrective action with CCR, TWC, or the Board; and
- director has a Texas Workforce Registry account, and encourages all staff to participate as well.

If you are not currently eligible to apply, contact your Board for help in becoming eligible.

Please visit www.TexasRisingStar.org for more information about how you can become certified.

www.TexasRisingStar.org

For more information, contact your Board at:

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Relay Texas: 800-735-2989 (TTY) and 711 (Voice).

Copies of this publication (1/2021) have been distributed in compliance with the Texas State Depository Law and are available for public use through the Texas State Publications Depository Program at the Texas State Library and other state depository libraries.

Show Texas parents that you have a quality program!
Texas Rising Star programs are committed to quality care and improvement that exceeds the state’s minimum child care licensing standards in the following categories:

1. **Director and Staff Qualifications, Orientation, and Training**
   - Director and staff qualifications, orientation, and training.

2. **Teacher-Child Interactions**
   - Group size and staff-to-child ratios
   - Teacher interactions that support child development and social-emotional learning

3. **Program Administration**
   - Family education and involvement
   - Program management

4. **Indoor/Outdoor Learning Environments**
   - Indoor and outdoor learning environments

Within each category, your program is scored on foundational quality standards, and you can earn additional points on other standards to increase your star level.

### Levels of Certification

The Texas Rising Star quality-level logo indicates the certification level of the early learning program.

- **2-Star**
  - Earns 0–59% of points across all four categories

- **3-Star**
  - Earns 60–79% of points across all four categories

- **4-Star**
  - Earns 80% or more of points across all four categories

### Benefits

- Higher child care subsidy reimbursement rate
- Professional development opportunities
- One-on-one mentoring
- Eligibility for other benefits, such as grants, stipends, and materials and equipment
- Free advertisement to parents and the community

The higher your star level, the more you are paid per child!

If you are not Texas Rising Star, this chart shows how much more you could receive per year for 1 toddler if you become certified at different levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Daily Increase for a Full-Time Toddler at a Licensed Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-Star</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This can be $1000 or more per child per year!

### You Can Be Texas Rising Star Certified!

Early learning program administrators sometimes assume that their programs cannot achieve certification because of time, staffing, or financial requirements. In some cases, these programs are already meeting or exceeding most Texas Rising Star measures!

- **It doesn’t take much time or paperwork to get started**
  - Trained mentors are available to help you through the certification process and beyond. The mentor can help create achievable goals and processes to ensure you are successful.

- **You will not be required to hire more teachers or teachers with degrees.**
  - Classroom ratios and staff qualifications are only 2 measures within the total of measures scored, so their impact to the overall star level is minimal. Also, teachers working in Texas Rising Star programs are eligible for educational support (such as grants, stipends, scholarships, and may receive preferred enrollment in higher-education initiatives).

- **It pays to be Texas Rising Star!**
  - Check out our revenue calculator at [www.TexasRisingStar.org](http://www.TexasRisingStar.org) to see how financially beneficial being certified could be for your program.

### Ready to Apply to Become Texas Rising Star Certified?

Contact your Board or visit [www.TexasRisingStar.org/getting-ready](http://www.TexasRisingStar.org/getting-ready) for more information on applying.