

Texas Rising Star

*A Program Overview for the Governor's Taskforce on Early
Childhood Education and Care*

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Texas 
Rising Star

What is Texas Rising Star?

- A Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for CCS providers
 - Participation required for CCS
 - Entry Level + three “Star” levels of quality
 - Certification every three years; Annual monitoring in between
 - Qualified, reliable, third-party assessors (UT Health Science Center competitively awarded contract)



A systemic approach

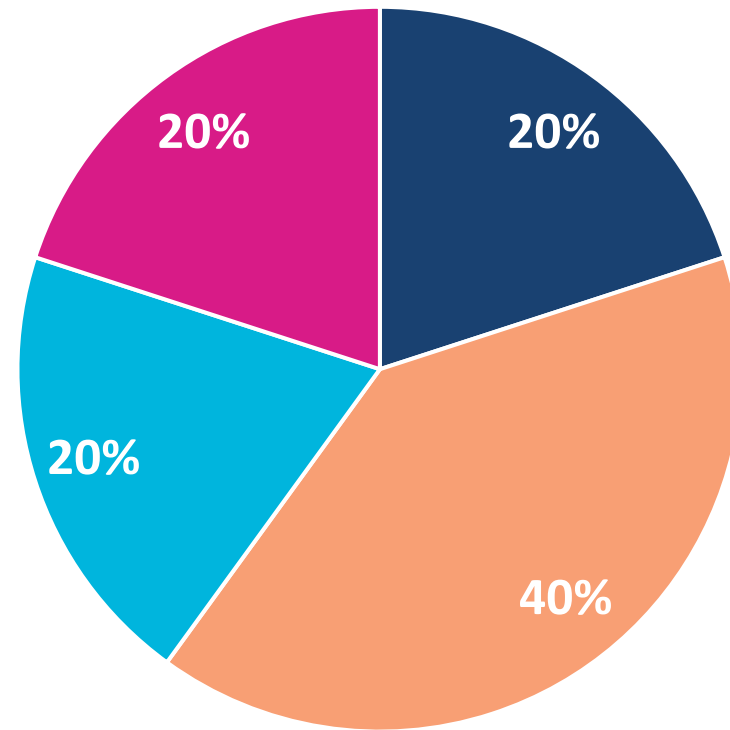
to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs.



How is Quality Defined in Texas Rising Star?

- Director and Staff Qualifications and Training
- Teacher-Child Interactions
- Program Administration
- Indoor and Outdoor Learning Environments

Measure Categories by Weighting



Texas Rising Star Vs. Texas High Quality Pre-K Components



- Cross-walk details key commonalities and differences
- Texas Rising Star differentiators:
 - Systemwide use of reliable, objective third-party assessors
 - Statutorily required review every four years
 - Robust data collection of program characteristics and performance on assessments

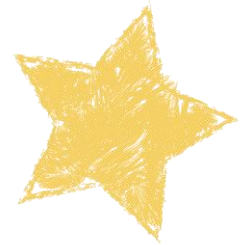
Star Levels = Consumer Information



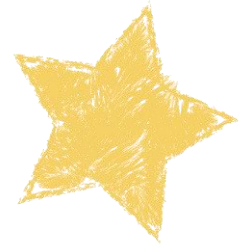
- Parent choice is a CCS requirement
- Easy-to-understand star levels help parents identify high quality
- Consistent branding and marketing resources help providers communicate their quality level
- Consumer education materials help parents understand the importance of high quality and Texas Rising Star



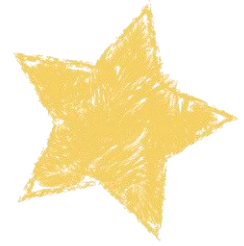
Impact & Reach of Texas Rising Star



About 7,500 child care providers accept CCS



80% are Texas Rising Star certified



Statewide licensed capacity is over **half a million** “seats” at certified high-quality providers

Measuring Child Outcomes

- TWC and TEA began assigning PEIMS numbers of children in CCS in September 2019.
- The Agencies are currently working to match data sets to exam Kindergarten entry assessment results
- Use cases around this matched data are also planned for the ECIDS



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Quad Agency Child Care Initiative Commission

Overview for the Governor's Taskforce on Early Childhood Education and Care

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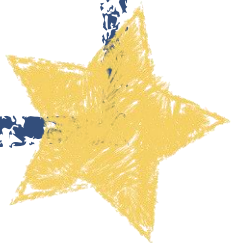
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What is the Quad Agency Commission?

- Established through 89th Regular Legislative Session, HB 4903
- Members: TWC (Chair), TEA, DFPS, and HHSC
- Meet 3 times per year – Nov 2025, March 2026, August 2026
- Focus on cost, quality, and accessibility of Texas child care

Website

<https://www.twc.texas.gov/programs/child-care/quad-agency-child-care-initiative>



Charges for Quad Agency

- Coordinate, consider, and start agency initiatives that expand access to quality, affordable child care
- Review and recommend actions to streamline existing or proposed regulations or requirements
 - Resolve conflicts and duplication
 - Lower insurance costs
 - Protect the health and safety of children in child care
 - Advance quality education in child care settings
 - Create consistent, predictable and reasonable enforcement mechanisms



What We Are Hearing About Standards and Quality

- #1 Issue: Pre-K
 - Revisit state-funded model with LEA delivery
 - Pre-K Partnership opportunities
 - Quad Agency currently reviewing LEA Pre-K Partnership data collection procedures
- Review or consolidation of curriculum and school readiness metrics
- Regulations: reduce, streamline, align, remove conflicts

Public Comments Summary

<https://www.twc.texas.gov/sites/default/files/ccel/docs/quad-agency-comments-march-2026.pdf>



Questions?

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