

## Statewide QRIS Profile: Ohio

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<p><b>Step Up To Quality</b> is Ohio's voluntary quality rating and improvement system for licensed child care programs. Step Up To Quality recognizes programs that achieve quality benchmarks over and above Ohio's licensing standards in the areas of ratios/group size, staff education and qualifications, specialized training, and administrative practices. Early learning supports and awards are available to assist programs in achieving and maintaining a Star Rating.</p>	
<b>CONTACTS</b>	
<b>QRIS Name</b>	Step Up to Quality
<b>Organization</b>	Bureau of Child Care and Development, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
<b>Start Date</b>	2006
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/stepUpQuality.stm">http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/stepUpQuality.stm</a>
<b>RATING LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS</b>	
<b>Levels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Licensing</li> <li>■ Step one</li> <li>■ Step two</li> <li>■ Step three</li> </ul>

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<b>Rating Assignment Method</b>	<p><b>Building blocks:</b></p> <p>Step Up to Quality is a voluntary system. To be eligible, providers must have no serious risk noncompliances during their last regular licensing inspections. Accreditation is an alternative pathway for meeting child-staff ratio and group size requirements for steps two and three.</p>
<b>General Requirements to Achieve Highest Level</b>	<p>There are specific criteria that providers must meet in all categories of standards to achieve step three.</p>
<b>Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments</b>	<p>In Step Up to Quality, self-assessments are required, but programs can use an ERS or the Early Learning and Literacy Classroom Observation tool. Ratings are not tied to the scores.</p>
<b>QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS</b>	
<b>QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Sites</b>	<p>There are separate standards for child care centers and family child care (FCC) homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ratio and group size</li> <li>■ Staff education and qualifications</li> <li>■ Specialized training</li> <li>■ Administrative practices</li> <li>■ Early learning</li> </ul> <p>Step Up to Quality Benchmarks and Indicators for Centers, <a href="http://ifs.ohio.gov/cdc/docs/SUTQ-centerbenchmarks.pdf">http://ifs.ohio.gov/cdc/docs/SUTQ-centerbenchmarks.pdf</a></p> <p>Step Up to Quality Benchmarks and Indicators for Type A Homes, <a href="http://ifs.ohio.gov/cdc/docs/proposedTypeAtiers11-19-07.pdf">http://ifs.ohio.gov/cdc/docs/proposedTypeAtiers11-19-07.pdf</a></p>
<b>Provider Types and Groups of Children Addressed in QRIS Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Child care centers</li> <li>■ FCC homes</li> <li>■ Infants and toddlers</li> <li>■ Preschool-age children</li> <li>■ School-age children</li> <li>■ Children with special needs</li> </ul>

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<b>Use of Accreditation</b>	Accreditation is an alternative pathway for meeting the child-staff ratio and group size requirements for steps two and three.
<b>Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Council on Accreditation, After School Programs (formerly National AfterSchool Association)</li> <li>■ National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs</li> <li>■ National Association for the Education of Young Children, Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation</li> <li>■ National Association for Family Child Care</li> <li>■ National Early Childhood Program Accreditation</li> </ul>
<b>FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Financial Incentives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tiered subsidy reimbursement</li> <li>■ Teacher Education and Compensation Helps Early Childhood® Project</li> <li>■ Rated programs are eligible to receive an annual Quality Achievement Award as long as they maintain Star rating requirements. The amount of the award is based on a program’s Star rating, size, and the number of subsidized children. The annual award is disbursed in one installment. For child care centers, 25 percent of the award must be spent in one or more of the following categories: critical repairs, quality improvements, or early learning resources.</li> </ul>