



## QRIS State 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. Implementation of this five-level system began in October 2013; previously, Ohio had a three-level building block system.</p>	
<b>CONTACTS</b>	
<b>QRIS Name</b>	Step Up to Quality
<b>Organization</b>	Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.earlychildhoodohio.org/index.php">http://www.earlychildhoodohio.org/index.php</a>
<b>RATING LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS</b>	
<b>Levels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ One star</li><li>■ Two stars</li><li>■ Three stars</li><li>■ Four stars</li><li>■ Five stars</li></ul>

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<b>Rating Assignment Method</b>	<p><b>Combination:</b></p> <p>One-, two- and three-star programs must meet all standards at the lower levels before advancing to the next. Beyond three stars, programs will be awarded points based on their adherence to three-star requirements and their ability to earn additional points. Programs must achieve a minimum of at least one point in each of the domains and can earn extra points for accreditation, lower staff-child ratios and group size.</p>
<b>Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments</b>	<p>In Step Up to Quality, programs conduct an annual classroom self-assessment for each group of children to achieve a two-star rating. The tool must be developmentally appropriate for the age group(s) served. Ratings are not tied to the scores.</p> <p>Ohio developed an Ohio Classroom Observation Tool to measure the quality of classroom environments and staff/child interactions in programs seeking three- to five-star ratings.</p>
<b>Program Assessments Included in QRIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Any self-assessment tool(s) that address the quality of the classroom environment and staff/child interaction that is developmentally appropriate for each age group served</li> <li>■ Ohio Classroom Observation Tool</li> </ul>
<b>QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS</b>	
<b>QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Sites</b>	<p>There are separate sets of standards for child care centers and Type A (large) homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Curriculum &amp; planning</li> <li>■ Child screening &amp; assessment</li> <li>■ Interactions &amp; environment</li> <li>■ Administrative leadership practices</li> <li>■ Staff qualifications &amp; professional development</li> <li>■ Family &amp; community partnerships</li> </ul> <p><i>Center Step Up to Quality Program Standards</i>  <a href="http://www.earlychildhoodohio.org/files/sutq/ProgramStandards081913.pdf">http://www.earlychildhoodohio.org/files/sutq/ProgramStandards081913.pdf</a></p> <p><i>Type A Home Step Up to Quality Program Standards</i>  <a href="http://www.earlychildhoodohio.org/files/sutq/TypeA_FamilyProgramStandards092313_1.pdf">http://www.earlychildhoodohio.org/files/sutq/TypeA_FamilyProgramStandards092313_1.pdf</a></p>

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<b>Programs Eligible to Participate in QRIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Child care centers</li> <li>■ Family child care homes (large homes currently participating, small homes eligible to participate in July 2014)</li> <li>■ Early Head Start programs</li> <li>■ Head Start programs</li> <li>■ Pre-kindergarten programs (beginning October 2013)</li> <li>■ School-age programs</li> <li>■ Preschool special education eligible to participate in October 2013</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Accreditation</b>	<p>Providers earn points to achieve Step 4 and Step 5. Accredited programs receive 5 points.</p>
<b>Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Association of Christian Schools International</li> <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</b>	
<b>Financial Incentives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tiered subsidy reimbursement</li> <li>■ Quality Achievement Award</li> <li>■ T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Ohio</li> </ul>