



Ohio's Cross-Agency Early Learning and Development System

Presentation to the Ohio Senate Finance Subcommittee
on Primary and Secondary Education, May 9, 2019

Agency	Early Childhood Function
Education	Preschool Special Education Early Childhood Education Step Up To Quality
Job and Family Services	Publicly Funded Child Care Step Up To Quality
Developmental Disabilities	Early Intervention
Health	Help Me Grow Home Visiting
Medicaid	Families and Children Health Care Coverage
Mental Health and Addiction Services	Early Childhood Mental Health
Local Early Head Start/Head Start Providers	Early Head Start Head Start





Vision

Each child in Ohio will have a bold beginning in life by engaging in high-quality early learning and healthy development experiences that prepare that child for school and build a solid foundation for lifelong success.





Focusing on **raising the quality** of all early care and education settings

Serving **children in poverty** and **children with disabilities**

Striving to ensure children enter **kindergarten ready** to be successful



Programs

Step Up to Quality
(SUTQ)

Cross – Agency Work



- **Purpose:** Help eligible parents with **child care costs** while they engage in **work, education or job training**.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Initial: at or below 130% FPL
 - Ongoing: at or below 300% FPL
- **Co-Pay:** **No cost** at or below 100% FPL, sliding fee scale from 101-300% FPL
- **Administration:** County JFS determines eligibility. ODJFS issues payments to providers.
- **Enrollment:** Over **119,000** children
- **Budget:** More than \$500 million annually in TANF, \$300 million annually from the Child Care Development Block Grant, GRF and other state funds.



- **Purpose:** Prepare **4-year-old children** from low income families for success in kindergarten.
- **Eligibility:** 4-year-old children in families **at or below 200% FPL**.
- **Co-Pay:** **No cost** (at or below 100% FPL) or sliding scale (101-200% FPL).
- **Administration:** School districts, Educational Service Centers, Joint Vocational Schools, chartered non public schools, ODJFS licensed providers Step Up to Quality **rated 3-5 stars**, community schools meeting certain report card grades.
- **Enrollment:** **17,913** children.
- **Budget:** **\$73,116,789** GRF & state funds.



- **Purpose:** Prepare children **ages 3-5 with an identified disability** for success in kindergarten.
- **Eligibility:** Children ages 3 to 5, not yet in kindergarten, with a disability.
- **Co-Pay: No cost**, including services in an IEP.
- **Administration:** Public schools of residence and County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.
- **Enrollment: 20,605** children.
- **Budget: \$122,555,000 GRF** & federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).



Programs

Step Up to Quality
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Cross – Agency Work



- Ohio's tiered quality rating system for licensed providers.
- 1- to 5-star rating system to assess licensed programs that exceed minimum health and safety standards.
- All ECE and PSE programs must be rated 3 stars or higher to retain funding.
- PFCC Goal:
 - All providers must participate by July 1, 2020
 - Centers and large family child care homes must be 3-star or higher by June 30, 2025.



1-5 stars are awarded based on the following factors:

- Curriculum & Planning
- Child Screening & Assessment
- Interactions & Environment
- Administrative & Leadership Practices
 - Staff Management
 - Program Administration
 - Staff Supports
- Staff Education & Professional Development
- Family & Community Partnerships, including transitions



Higher Ratings = Higher Payments

Participating PFCC providers receive a +4% base rate increase AND:

1-star: +5%

2-star: +18%

3-star: +21%

4-star: +29%

5-star: +35%



ODJFS SFY 20/21 Budget Request

Increase of more than **\$147 million** in SFY 2020 and nearly **\$180 million** in SFY 2021 for Publicly Funded Child Care.

Three components:

- **\$83 million a year** to increase base payment rates to align with the 2018 market rate survey (25th percentile).
- **\$61 million** in the first year and **\$87 million** in the second year to help fund enhanced payments to SUTQ providers.
- **\$1.5 million** in SFY 2020 and **\$2.5 million** in SFY 2021 for payments to providers serving families with incomes between 200-300% FPL.



Step Up to Quality Validation Study

- An independent study conducted in 2017 confirmed the following:
 - A strong correlation between children scoring higher on Ohio's Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and attendance at a star-rated program;
 - Higher-quality classroom practices compared to unrated programs;
 - That students who attend Publicly Funded Child Care programs over a longer period of time score higher on average on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.
- A second validation study will be completed in late summer or early spring.



Star Rating	ECE	PSE	ECE and PSE
1 - Star	0	1	0
2 - Star	0	6	2
3 - Star	5	9	4
4 - Star	12	49	25
5 - Star	126	426	266
Total	143	491	297



Publicly Funded Child Care

As of April 2019:

- # of Licensed Programs: **6,763**
- # of Programs Serving Children in Publicly Funded Child Care: **5,387**
- # of Rated Programs: **2,874 (53%)**

Star Rating	PFCC
1 - Star	1,644
2 - Star	198
3 - Star	341
4 - Star	252
5 - Star	439
Total	2,874



Publicly Funded Child Care

As of April 2019:

- # of Licensed Centers and Type A Homes: **4,328**
- # of Centers and Type A Homes Serving Children in Publicly Funded Child Care: **2,990**
- # Rated 3-, 4- or 5-stars: **869 (29%)**

Star Rating	PFCC
3 - Star	245
4 - Star	227
5 - Star	397
Total	869



More than doubled the annual funding for **TEACH scholarships** and provide numerous **free professional development** programs

Conducted a **call campaign** to eligible providers to ask why they have not registered, what help they needed to register, and when they anticipated taking action

Host “**Roadmap to Quality**” workshops where providers can get information and help with registration



Assigned **8 licensing specialists** to provide one-on-one support and technical assistance

Created **sample forms** to provide examples of the documentation needed to become rated

Created **Star Rating Checklists** to help with registration

Provide **2 free curricula** to help providers become highly rated



POWER Ohio Wage and Retention Program

One-Time Step Up To Quality Incentive Payments

Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five

- Screening Tool
- Hiring a vendor to provide on-site rating support
- Digital Media Campaign



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Standards: Created one set of standards birth – Kindergarten entry

Step Up to Quality: Utilize one set of quality program standards

Single Licensing System: Developed and implemented one licensing system across ODJFS & ODE and

Single Student ID: Utilize a cross agency statewide student identifier



Ohio Approved: Jointly created *Ohio Approved* process for professional development and identified parameters for conferences and other cross-field events

Early Childhood Mental Health: Joint communications about the Early Childhood Mental Health consultation program to reduce the prevalence of preschool expulsion and teach early care & education field about the impact of trauma and poverty

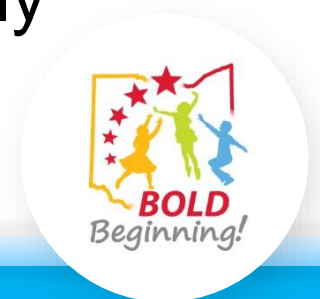


Extended Day Students: Allow families using the part-time Early Childhood Education program to extend the day with Publicly Funded Child Care to meet the needs of the family

Website: Created a one-stop website for families

<https://boldbeginning.org/>

Increased Access: Tripled the number of publicly funded Early Childhood Education slots available



Common Application: Created a streamlined application for families applying for Early Childhood Education and Publicly Funded Child Care

Sliding Fee Scale: Implemented sliding co-pays to help avoid the child care benefit cliff

No Cost for Lowest Income: Removed child care co-pays for families with incomes below 100% FPL





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Questions?