



# Texas Rising Star

Child Care Services:  
Entry Level Designation

# What is Child Care Services (CCS)?

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) CCS program provides child care scholarships for low-income families. As a CCS provider, your early learning program can assist these families in providing care to their children while they go to work or attend school.



## Am I Eligible to Participate in the CCS Program?

An early learning program is eligible to participate in the CCS program if:

- The program is licensed or registered by Child Care Regulation (CCR);
- Is not on corrective or adverse action with CCR;
- Does not exceed the points threshold for CCR deficiencies incurred within the most recent 6-months; and
- Agrees to work with a mentor towards Texas Rising Star certification.

Early learning programs that are relative providers or regulated by the US military are also eligible to participate.

*If you are not currently eligible to participate in the CCS program, contact your Local Workforce Development Board for assistance.*

# Timeline Requirements

Entry Level programs are committed to achieving at least Two-Star certification within two years of receiving their designation.



**Your clock begins – once your program is Entry Level designated and you sign a CCS Agreement with the Board, you're assigned a mentor to help you achieve at least a Two-Star certification.**



**Time to check in – 12 months into the two-year timeline, your program will be screened\* for certification eligibility.**

- If eligible, your program will be scheduled for a Texas Rising Star assessment.
- If not eligible, continue working towards eligibility.



**Final check in – 18 months into the two-year timeline, your program will be re-screened\* for certification eligibility.**

- If eligible, your program will be scheduled for a Texas Rising Star assessment.
- If not eligible, continue working towards eligibility for the remaining 6 months of the two-year timeline.



**You Did It – achieve at least Two-Star certification by the end of the two-year timeline.**

- Failure to comply will result in termination of the CCS agreement.
- Programs who fail to comply may qualify for an extension. Speak to your Board to determine if your program meets the specified criteria for an extension.

*(\*) your program can be screened sooner than the timeline noted*

For more information about Texas Rising Star eligibility, please visit  
[www.childcare.texas.gov/texas-rising-star/getting-certified/eligibility](http://www.childcare.texas.gov/texas-rising-star/getting-certified/eligibility)

# CCS Benefits

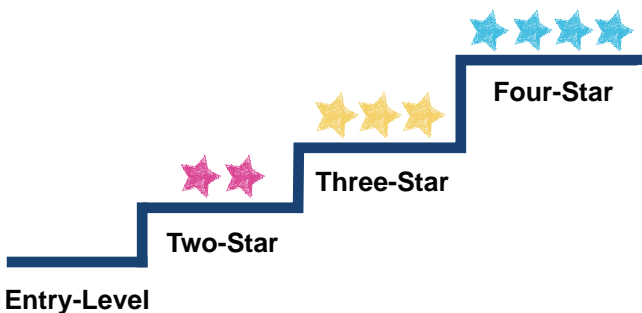
Entry Level programs will have access to:

- Professional development
- One-on-one mentoring
- Other benefits, such as grants, stipends, materials and equipment

## Once you reach Two-Star or above

- Higher child care reimbursement rate  
To view reimbursement rates across the state, visit [www.twc.texas.gov/programs/child-care/data-reports-plans/](http://www.twc.texas.gov/programs/child-care/data-reports-plans/)
- Additional benefits, such as grants, stipends, materials and equipment
- Free advertisement to parents and the community

## Progression of Growth



## Points Threshold of 40 or lower

An early learning program's licensing history (up to the most recent 6 months) will be reviewed. Points will be given to any high and medium-high deficiencies found.

- Each high weighted deficiency is worth 5 points
- Each medium-high weighted deficiency is worth 3 points

If an early learning program has an initial permit or has less than 12 months of licensing history, the points will be assigned based on the licensing history that is available.

# Raising Your Star Level

We're here to help you reach for more stars! Most early learning 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. 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 two measures within the total 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.

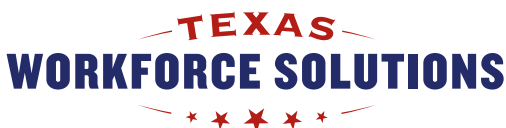
## ✓ **It pays to be Texas Rising Star!**

Check out our revenue calculator at [www.childcare.texas.gov/texas-rising-star/tools-and-resources](http://www.childcare.texas.gov/texas-rising-star/tools-and-resources) to see how financially beneficial being certified could be for your program.

**Ready to Become  
Texas Rising Star Certified?**

Contact your Board or visit [www.childcare.texas.gov/texas-rising-star/getting-certified](http://www.childcare.texas.gov/texas-rising-star/getting-certified) or more information on certification.

*Please visit [www.childcare.texas.gov/texas-rising-star](http://www.childcare.texas.gov/texas-rising-star) for more information about how you can apply.*



*For more information, contact your  
Local Workforce Development Board at:*



[www.childcare.texas.gov/texas-rising-star](http://www.childcare.texas.gov/texas-rising-star)

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.  
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and 711 (Voice).

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