



Texas Rising Star

Provider Guide

Become Texas Rising Star Certified



Am I Eligible to Apply?

An early learning program is eligible to apply for certification if:

- The program has a current agreement with their Local Workforce Development Board (Board) to serve children who qualify for child care financial assistance;
- The program has a permanent (non-expiring) license or registration from Child Care Regulation (CCR) with at least 12 months of licensing history **or** is regulated by and in good standing with the US military; and
- Is not on corrective action with CCR, TWC, or the Board; and
- The director has a Texas Workforce Registry account, and encourages all staff to participate as well.

If you are not currently eligible to apply, contact your Board for assistance.

Application Process

Early learning program administrators sometimes assume their programs cannot achieve certification because of time, staffing, or financial requirements. In some cases, these 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 to see how financially beneficial being certified could be for your program.

Ready to Apply to Become Texas Rising Star Certified?

Contact your Board or visit www.childcare.texas.gov/texas-rising-star/getting-certified for more information on applying.

Certification Categories

Texas Rising Star early learning programs are committed to providing high-quality child care that exceeds the state's minimum child care licensing standards in the following categories:

- 1. Director and Staff Qualifications, Orientation, and Training**
- 2. Teacher-Child Interactions**
 - Group size and staff-to-child ratios
 - Teacher interactions that support child development and social-emotional learning.
- 3. Program Administration**
 - Family education and involvement
 - Program management
- 4. Indoor/Outdoor Learning Environments**

Within each category, your program is scored on foundational quality standards, and you can earn additional points on other standards to increase your star level.

Levels of Certification

The Texas Rising Star star-level graphic indicates the certification level of the early learning program.



Four out of four star certification

Four-Star

Earns 80% or more of points across all four categories



Three out of four star certification

Three-Star

Earns 60–79% of points across all four categories



Two out of four star certification

Two-Star

Earns 0–59% of points across all four categories

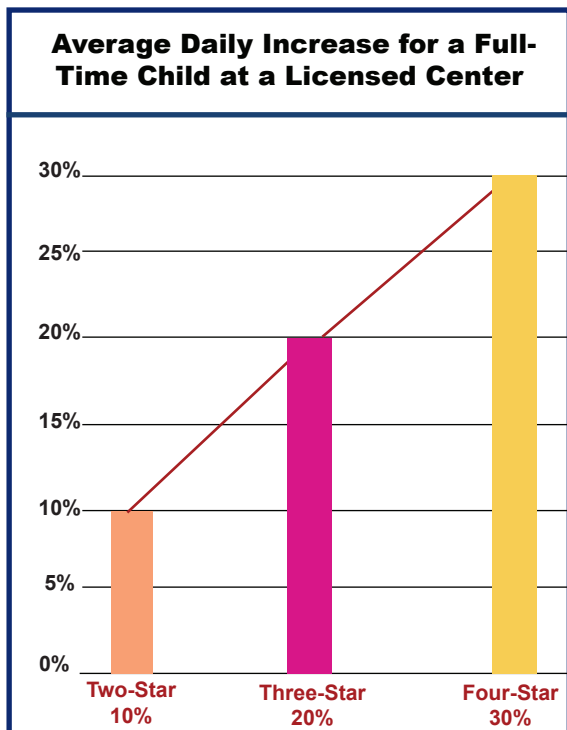
Certification Benefits

- Higher child care reimbursement rate
- Professional development opportunities
- One-on-one mentoring
- Eligibility for other benefits, such as grants, stipends, materials and equipment
- Free advertisement to parents and the community

The higher your star level, the more you are paid per child!

This can be \$1000 or more per child per year!

If you are not Texas Rising Star, this chart shows how much **more** you could receive per year for one toddler if you become certified at different levels.



To view reimbursement rates across the state, visit www.twc.texas.gov/programs/child-care/data-reports-plans

Please visit 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

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.
Auxiliary aids and services are available
upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Relay Texas: 800-735-2989 (TTY)
and 711 (Voice).

Copies of this publication (03/2025) have
been distributed in compliance with the
Texas State Depository Law and are
available for public use through the Texas
State Publications Depository Program
at the Texas State Library and other state
depository libraries.