



Ohio's Cross-Agency Early Learning and Development System

Presentation to the Joint Education Oversight Committee
June 28, 2018



Mission

All of Ohio's children will engage in high-quality early learning and healthy development experiences that prepare them 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 or with a disability

Striving to ensure children enter kindergarten ready to be successful



Tripled the number of publicly-funded Early Childhood Education slots (5,700 to 18,440) available

Reduced the child care cost cliff

Removed child care copays for families below 100% of the federal poverty level



Created a one-stop website for families

Created a streamlined application for families applying for Early Childhood Education and publicly funded child care



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

Increased the number of licensed early care and education programs in Step Up to Quality by 34% across ODJFS and ODE programs



Programs

Step Up to Quality
(SUTQ)

Cross – Agency Work



Programs

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1. **Purpose:** The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) offers assistance to eligible parents to help them with child care costs while they engage in work, education or job training for children ages birth through age 13.
2. **Initial Eligibility:** Income must be below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL); **Ongoing Eligibility:** Once determined eligible, families maintain eligibility until their income exceeds 300% FPL. Family must have a qualifying activity: Job Search, Education, Work/Work Requirement.
3. Families at 100% FPL or below attend at no cost/no co-pay. Families 101 – 300% FPL pay co-pay on a sliding fee scale.



4. Ohio is a State Supervised/ County Administered System with defined roles at both the state and county. County Departments of Job and Family Services determine eligibility for public funded child care (PFCC); while ODJFS makes payments directly to providers.
5. More than 117,000 children receive PFCC.
6. SFY 2017 expenditures are \$710,784,876, funded by a combination of the federal Child Development Block Grant, TANF, GRF, and Casino Funds. This represents child care direct services, non-direct services, quality, systems, and program administration.



1. Purpose: The Ohio Department of Education administers high-quality early childhood education grants serving 4-year-old children from low income families to prepare children for success in kindergarten.
2. 4-year-old children in families with incomes at or below 200% FPL.
3. Families at 100% FPL or below attend at no cost/no co-pay. Families 101 – 200% FPL pay co-pay on a sliding fee scale.



4. School districts, Educational Service Centers, Joint Vocational Schools, chartered non public schools, ODJFS licensed providers SUTQ rated 3 – 5 stars, community schools meeting certain report card grades as specified in law.
5. 15,942 children served in SFY2017.
6. \$73,760,000 GRF & Casino Funds.



1. Purpose: Ohio Department of Education provides federal and state funds for high-quality preschool programs and services for preschool children ages 3 – 5 with an identified disability to prepare children for success in kindergarten.
2. Children ages 3 to 5 not yet in kindergarten with a disability, as defined by Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-11.
3. Children attend for free and families do not pay a co-pay or any money for the PSE program or services that are a part of a child's Individualized Education Program.



4. Public and schools of residence and County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.
5. 20,605 children served SYF2017.
6. \$122,555,000 GRF & federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).



Programs

Step Up to Quality
(SUTQ)

Cross – Agency Work



- Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) is Ohio's tiered quality rating system for ODE and ODJFS licensed providers.
- Uses a standardized one- to five-star rating system to assess ODE- and ODJFS-licensed programs that exceed minimum health and safety standards.
- Per state law, all ECE & PSE programs must be rated at 3-star or higher in SUTQ to retain funding.
- Per state law, all PFCC providers must participate in SUTQ by July 1, 2020 (ORC 5104.31); Centers and large family child care homes providing PFCC must be 3-star or higher by June 30, 2025 (ORC 5104.29).



1 – 5 stars are awarded based on the following quality standards:

- 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



Step Up to Quality Validation Study (2017)

- Independent study conducted by COMPASS Evaluation and Research, Inc.
- Findings showed that SUTQ resulted in:
 - High Quality Classroom Practices
 - Better Preparedness for Kindergarten
 - Family Child Care



Star Rating	ECE	PSE	ECE and PSE
1 - Star	1	0	0
2 - Star	3	4	1
3 - Star	2	7	9
4 - Star	20	36	22
5 - Star	267	446	173
Total	293	493	205



PFCC

As of April 2018:

- # of Licensed Programs: 7,055
- # of Programs Serving Publicly Funded Children: 5,558
- # of Programs Rated: 1,752 or 32%

Star Rating	PFCC
1 - Star	848
2 - Star	165
3 - Star	276
4 - Star	186
5 - Star	277
Total	1752



PFCC

As of April 2018:

- # of Licensed Centers and Type A Homes: 4,316
- # of Centers and Type A Homes Serving Publicly Funded Children: 2,679
- # Rated 3-, 4- or 5-stars: 646 or 24%

Star Rating	PFCC
3 - Star	215
4 - Star	171
5 - Star	260
Total	646



Doubled the annual funding for TEACH scholarships and provide numerous free professional development programs

Call Campaign – conducted calls to eligible providers to ask why they have not registered, what help they needed to register and when they anticipated taking action

SUTQ “Roadmap to Quality” – held meetings for providers where resources were on-site to help with registration and answer questions



Exploring and piloting a mentoring component to credit professionals

Created Sample Forms - to provide examples of the documentation needed to become rated

Created Star Rating Checklists - to assist with registration

Curriculums: ODJFS provides two options, free of charge for providers to select for the curriculum and assessments which are necessary to become highly rated (3-star or higher)



Programs

Step Up To Quality
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Cross – Agency Work



Created one set of standards Birth – Kindergarten entry

Utilize one set of quality program standards (SUTQ)

Developed and implemented one data system across ODJFS & ODE



Jointly created Ohio Approved process for professional development

Currently exploring Ohio Approved parameters for conferences and other cross-field events

Participation and joint communications about the Early Childhood Mental Health consultation program to address the impact of trauma, poverty, and preschool expulsion





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Questions?