

# VOTE

  

## for OHIO KIDS



## High-Quality Child Care

The vast majority of Ohio kids who receive publicly funded early childhood experiences do so through child care programs. Ohio offers child care to children of working parents living at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level. The length of child care services is determined by the parents' work schedule, ranging from hourly care to over 60 hours per week, and parents' financial contribution is determined by income level. Child care for 0-4 year olds provides a critical opportunity to affect kids during the most important period of development, in addition to a necessary support for working families.

### High-Quality Learning Environments



Ohio's 5-star early care and child care rating and improvement system.

High-quality learning environments mean:

- Enriching curriculum aligned with standards
- Highly-educated teachers
- Lower teacher-to-student ratios
- Consistent communication & engagement with families <sup>i</sup>



**Higher Quality & Better Outcomes:** There is a strong correlation between children scoring higher on Ohio's Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and attendance at a 3-5 Star Rated program.

**Higher Ratings Mean Better Quality:** Programs that are Star Rated showed higher quality classroom practices compared to programs that are not Star Rated.

**Higher Attendance Matters:** Students who attended publicly funded child care programs over a longer period of time scored higher on average on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. <sup>ii</sup>



**THE RETURNS:**

**HIGH-QUALITY, COMPREHENSIVE CHILD CARE PROGRAMS FOR OHIO'S EARLIEST LEARNERS OFFER**

**13% ROI <sup>iii</sup>**

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## High-Quality Child Care in Ohio

### LACK OF ACCESS:



*Too few eligible Ohio kids are even being served.*

Only 49% of eligible 0-4 year olds at or below 130% FPL have access to an early childhood program.<sup>iv</sup>

AND:  
**NOT ALL ACCESS IS QUALITY.**

### LACK OF PROGRESS:



Ohio is far behind the statutory benchmark of 25% licensed child care providers being high-quality rated (3 to 5 stars) by July 2017. *Ohio's goal is 100% quality by 2025.*

**29%** of programs are rated. (1-5 stars)

**20%** of programs are high-quality rated. (3-5 stars)<sup>v</sup>



## Ohio's Next Governor Should:



 *Work to achieve quality learning environments for all state-funded programs.*

 *Expand programs to meet the needs of all at-risk kids.*

## Sources

- i. Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. “Step Up to Quality’ (SUTQ): Program Standards.”
- ii. Compass Evaluation and Research, Inc. “Ohio’s SUTQ: Validation Study Results.”
- iii. The Heckman Equation. “There’s more to gain by taking a comprehensive approach to early childhood development.”
- iv. Ohio Legislative Service Commission. “Early Childhood Programs.” 7 February 2018. Unpublished report.
- v. Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Early Childhood Advisory Council Briefing: January 18, 2018 (Unpublished)

Presented by:

Groundwork  
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Ohio Children's Hospital Association

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