

Texas Early Childhood Standards Comparison Tool

The Texas Early Childhood Standards Comparison Tool is a collaboration between the Texas Early Learning Council and the Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office. The Comparison Tool will be an online, searchable database of early childhood program standards, categorized by broad topics and more specific sub-topics. Early childhood programs in Texas must adhere to state program standards. Some programs also follow other standards established by the federal government, for example Head Start programs and programs on military bases. Additionally, early childhood programs can choose to participate in national or state accreditations; these accreditations are developed, by the government or national organizations, to indicate a higher quality designation to programs that choose to participate. There is great variability in the program standards—from the state and federal government, as well as accreditations. The Comparison Tool will help stakeholders learn more about these early childhood program standards.

Federal and state program standards, as well as other national and state program accreditations are included in the Comparison Tool. The Texas Early Childhood Standards Comparison Tool will be the most comprehensive tool available nationwide, allowing stakeholders to research early childhood program standards and accreditations through an easy-to-use, online database.

How will the Comparison Tool be used?

Practitioners and Administrators will learn more about state regulations of their program and about accreditations that are available to their program, as well as opportunities to collaborate with other programs.

Policymakers will learn more about the similarities and differences between state and federal standards and accreditations, and how different agencies and organizations define quality. Policymakers can also use the Comparison Tool to identify ways to influence collaboration between early childhood sectors.

What national and state program standards and accreditations are included in the new Comparison Tool?

National Program Standards:

- Head Start Performance Standards
- DOD Military Child Care Standards

Texas Program Standards:

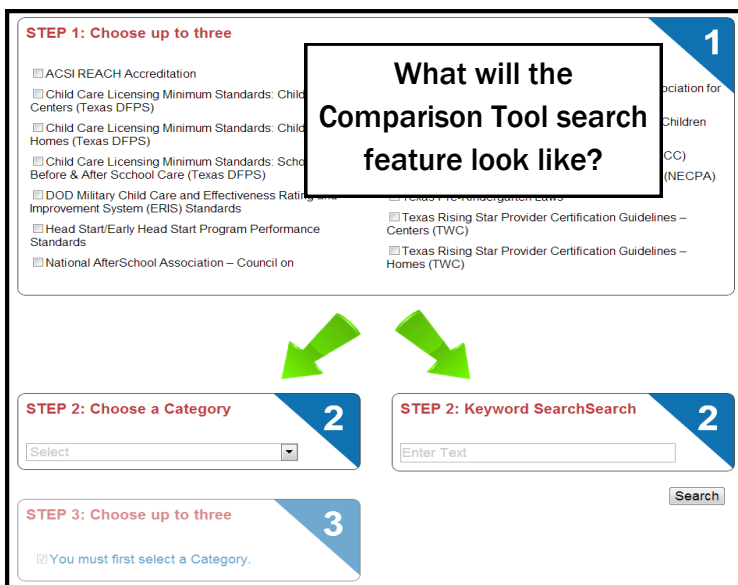
- Child Care Licensing Minimum Standards—Child Care Centers, Child Care Homes, and Before and After School Care
- Texas Pre-kindergarten laws

National Accreditations:

- DOD Effectiveness Rating and Improvement System (ERIS)
- Association for Christian Schools International (ACSI)
- National AfterSchool Association (NAA)
- National Accreditation Commission (NAC)
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)
- National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)

Texas Accreditations:

- Texas Rising Star—Child Care Centers and Child Care Homes



STEP 1: Choose up to three

What will the Comparison Tool search feature look like?

- ACSI REACH Accreditation
- Child Care Licensing Minimum Standards: Child Care Centers (Texas DFPS)
- Child Care Licensing Minimum Standards: Child Care Homes (Texas DFPS)
- Child Care Licensing Minimum Standards: School Before & After School Care (Texas DFPS)
- DOD Military Child Care and Effectiveness Rating and Improvement System (ERIS) Standards
- Head Start/Early Head Start Program Performance Standards
- National AfterSchool Association – Council on
- Texas Pre-kindergarten Laws
- Texas Rising Star Provider Certification Guidelines – Centers (TWC)
- Texas Rising Star Provider Certification Guidelines – Homes (TWC)

STEP 2: Choose a Category

Select

STEP 2: Keyword Search

Enter Text

Search

STEP 3: Choose up to three

You must first select a Category.

Comparison Tool Sustainability

The Comparison Tool will be hosted on the Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office website.

Main sustainability issues include:

- Web maintenance of the online tool
- Administration of the online tool
- Updates to the data in the future



Texas Early Childhood Path to School Readiness

The Texas Early Learning Council is working towards the goal of improving school readiness in Texas by identifying needs and priority areas in the early care and education system, developing strategies for improvement, and facilitating high-quality outcomes.

Needs

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Data Sharing Across Agencies and Sectors
Unified, Cross-Sector Measures of Program Quality

Improved ECE Cross-Sector Guidelines and Standards
Enhanced Local Collaborations on School Readiness

Long-Term and Short-Term Data on the Needs of Young Children and the Capacity of Texas ECE Programs
Parent and Child-Focused ECE System
Increased Access to High Quality Programs Among Underrepresented Families

Cross-Sector ECE Professional Development System
Improved Recruitment and Retention of Highly Effective ECE Professionals
Professional Development and Education Pathways for all ECE Professionals

Priority Areas

Data and Quality Rating & Improvement (QRIS) Systems

Collaborations and Standards

Parental Outreach and Communications

Workforce and Professional Development

Strategies

Develop Recommendations for an Integrated ECE Information Exchange System

Develop Recommendations for a Statewide Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)

Research and Implement a Web-Based, Cross-Sector Standards Comparison Tool for All Stakeholders

Develop and Implement Voluntary Infant and Toddler Early Learning Guidelines

Create a Professional Mentoring and Coaching Strategies Toolkit

Pilot a Program for Quality Improvement in Home-Based Child Care in English and Spanish

Conduct a Comprehensive, Statewide ECE Needs Assessment

Texas Community Campaign for School Readiness (Local ECE Needs Assessments and Planning)

Implement a Statewide Community Outreach and Public Relations Campaign for School Readiness

Develop an ECE Professional Development System and an ECE Workforce Registry System

New Core Competencies with Trainings for All ECE Professionals
Career Ladder for All ECE Professionals
Compensation Study of All ECE Professionals

Evaluate the Capacity and the Effectiveness of Higher Education to Meet the Needs of the ECE Workforce

Support Scholarship and Financial Aid Opportunities for Texas ECE Professionals through T.E.A.C.H.® Texas

Assess and Develop Model Higher Education Articulation Agreements

Outcomes

Data-Driven Decisions for Policymakers, Providers, and Parents

Improved Cross-Sector Quality, Standards, and Collaborations

Identify Critical State and Local Needs and Engage in Targeted Outreach

Highly Qualified and Prepared Workforce

Goal

Improved School Readiness