

# Quality in PA Early Care & Education

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# PA's Quality Initiative as of February 2020

- Pre-K programs
  - Pre-K Counts with 25,131 seats and 11,819—47%--in child care programs
  - HSSAP with 6497 seats and 1794—27%-- are in child care programs

# PA's Quality Initiative as of February 2020

	Child Care Center (statewide)	Family Child Care (statewide)	Group Child Care (statewide)	Total (statewide)	SE (Phila, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery)
No STAR Level	207	57	29	293	175
STAR 1	2217	1047	475	3739	1607
STAR 2	921	224	125	1270	421
STAR 3	482	51	29	562	216
STAR 4	1092	75	35	1202	455
Grand Total	4919	1454	693	7066	2874



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# PA's Quality Initiative as of May 2020

	Child Care Center (statewide)	Family Child Care (statewide)	Group Child Care (statewide)	Total (statewide)	SE (Phila, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery)
No STAR Level	23	42	2	67	39
STAR 1	246	587	97	930	340
STAR 2	126	120	27	273	54
STAR 3	75	32	4	111	37
STAR 4	121	32	6	156	62
Grand Total	591	813	136	1540	532



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# Comparing February and May

## STAR LEVEL

- February:
  - 25% statewide at STAR 3 or 4
  - 23% SE at STAR 3 or 4
- May
  - 18% statewide at STAR 3 or 4
  - 19% SE at STAR 3 or 4

## OPEN v SHUT

- May:
  - 22% of all providers statewide open/78% closed
    - 55% of family open versus 12% of centers
  - 19% SE open/81% closed

# PA Support to Sustain Quality Child Care

- Effective mid-March 2020 (exclusive of CARES money)
  - Pre-K Counts and & Head Start Supplemental programs paid in full but shut down
    - 4848 Pre-K counts children in child care programs in SE
    - 1400 HS Supplemental children in child care programs in SE
  - Open and Closed Child Care Works providers:
    - Paid on enrollment versus attendance through end of May 2020; providers who closed were paid if in Child Care Works based on March enrollment; if families switched enrollment, providers were nonetheless paid
    - Providers were paid at the STAR level with the add-on rates based on enrollment not attendance whether open or closed

# Other State Actions to Sustain ECE that Address Quality

- New Mexico (CARES Act)
  - Compensation boosts:
    - Full-time early childhood workers; \$700 per month in pay for each month worked from April – June
    - Part-time early childhood workers; \$350 per month for each month worked from April – June
  - Child Care Recovery and Stabilization Funds for child care businesses:
    - All providers who are licensed, with greater amounts based on size and participation in state's child care assistance program
    - Additional payments for those serving infants and toddlers
    - Additional payments for those participating in the state's quality initiative

# Other State Actions to Sustain ECE that Address Quality

- North Carolina Compensation
  - Bonus payments to all full-time child care employees for April and May 2020; centers & homes
    - \$300 per month for all teaching staff
    - \$200 per month for all non-teaching staff
- Michigan CARES
  - For programs open or closed, grants that are based on:
    - Provider type
    - Caring for essential worker- more for those serving infants and toddlers
    - Provider size
    - Star rating



# Child care = economic infrastructure + child development & learning + support for families

- Public payment needed in many more programs to maintain and ensure stable, quality infrastructure, compensation, and supply:
  - State role far beyond licensing and tuition and quality initiatives for selected low-income children
  - Quality is part of the infrastructure investment, not an after thought that we'll get back to later
  - Even deeper public investment in child care programs in communities that lack quality supply, such as infant toddler deserts that occur throughout PA
  - **Base investments in all programs:** Sufficient stable money across all providers to cover the cost of doing business that 1) enables participation in state's quality initiative (including any new public health requirements), 2) provides middle class workforce compensation (family & centers), 3) assures service provision for infants & toddlers

# Child care = economic infrastructure + child development & learning + support for families

- Reconsideration of how programs are funded to ensure stability, quality, compensation and supply:
  - Current voucher approach based on identified child does not come close to reaching these goals
  - Move out of vouchers
  - Move into contracts that 1) create funded and accountable networks of home and center based programs 2) funded with base investments and 3) additional resources where collecting tuition is beyond family means, 4) ideally consolidated with state pre-k programs.