

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Bret Crow
Communications Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
(614) 466-6650 | bret.crow@jfs.ohio.gov

Brittany Halpin
Associate Director for Media Relations
Ohio Department of Education
(614) 728-5959 | Brittany.Halpin@education.ohio.gov

Parents Encouraged to Visit ChildCareSearch.Ohio.gov to Find Before- and After-School Care

COLUMBUS, OHIO – August 13, 2018 – With many children heading back to school this month, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and Ohio Department of Education (ODE) remind parents to visit ChildCareSearch.Ohio.gov when searching for before- and after-school care for their children. Families can search for child care providers by county, city, zip code, program type and Step Up To Quality rating. Step Up To Quality is Ohio's five-star tiered quality rating and improvement system, which recognizes programs that exceed minimum health and safety standards and promote children's learning and development.

“Finding high-quality child care is one of the most important choices parents can make,” said ODJFS Director Cynthia Dungey. “It also can be one of the most difficult choices. ChildCareSearch.Ohio.gov can help make it easier. Parents can use it to find highly rated child care in their area, including home-based care, school-based care and care at child care centers. They can view past inspection reports for programs they’re interested in and then visit those programs to see firsthand whether they’re right for their children.”

“High quality before- and after-school care can expand upon the learning and growth that happens during the school day,” said Paolo DeMaria, superintendent of public instruction. “ChildCareSearch.Ohio.gov is a great resource for parents to find high-quality programs in their neighborhoods and see important information that helps them make the best decisions for their children.”

Programs listed at ChildCareSearch.Ohio.gov serve children of all ages, including infants and preschoolers. All child care programs in Ohio serving more than six children – or more than three children under age 2 – must be licensed. ODJFS and county departments of job and family services are responsible for licensing and inspecting nearly 3,000 family child care homes and more than 4,000 child care facilities throughout the state. ODE is responsible for licensing school-age child care programs operated by public schools, educational service centers, community schools, boards of developmental disabilities and chartered nonpublic schools.

Both ODJFS and ODE programs may participate in Step Up To Quality. Starting in 2020, all programs that provide publicly funded child care must participate in Step Up To Quality.

-30-

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance, child care, child and adult protective services, adoption, and child support services.

The Ohio Department of Education oversees the state’s public education system, which includes public school districts, joint vocational school districts and charter schools. The Department also monitors educational service centers, other regional education providers, early learning and child care programs, and private schools. The Department’s tasks include administering the school funding system, collecting school fiscal and performance data, developing academic standards and model curricula, administering the state achievement tests, issuing district and school report cards, administering Ohio’s voucher programs, providing professional development, and licensing teachers, administrators, treasurers, superintendents and other education personnel. The Department is governed by the State Board of Education with administration of the Department the responsibility of the superintendent of public instruction.