

Ranking of States

Scores and Ranking for Program and Oversight Benchmarks Combined

Child Care Aware® of America chose 15 key benchmarks essential for quality in child care centers. Fifty-one states (including the *District of Columbia*) and the *Department of Defense (DoD)* were assessed, assigned points based on state regulations and policies, and ranked based on their performance.

States could receive a maximum of 10 points for each of the areas scored or partial credit based on state requirements. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150.

Although this report reviews both program requirements and oversight requirements and scores each separately, states were ranked based on their total combined scores. **The average score in 2013 was 92, which equates to 61 percent or a grade of D.**

Scores for the Top 10 states ranged from 130 to 106. No state earned an “A,” and only *DoD* earned a “B.” The remaining top 10 states (*New York, Washington, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin, Delaware, Illinois, Minnesota* and *Tennessee*) earned a “C.” Twenty states earned a “D,” and the remaining 21 states earned a score of 60 or less, a failing grade in any classroom.

This report was finalized in February 2013. Some states and *DoD* have pending policy changes that are scheduled to take place in 2013 after this report is printed. While it is encouraging to see progress in the pipeline, this report scores policies actually

in place. Future updates will score pending policy changes once implemented.

States Show Progress

States made modest improvement in health and safety, oversight, emergency procedures and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) prevention since our 2011 report.

- *New York* and *DoD* scored in the top 10 for total scores. They were the only two child care center systems that also scored in the top 10 for both program standards and oversight.
- Three states (*California, Idaho* and *Nebraska*) scored in the bottom 10 for both oversight and program requirements.

Progress has been made in many states since Child Care Aware® of America’s initial report in 2007, but more progress is needed to really ensure that children are safe and in a quality setting.

The following table shows states that scored in the top 10 and the bottom 10 for total scores.

Total Scores and Rankings for Child Care Center Program Requirements and Oversight							
Top 10 States				Bottom 10 States			
State	Final Score	Percent of Total	Rank	State	Final Score	Percent of Total	Rank
Department of Defense	130	87%	1	Arkansas	82	55%	41
New York	116	77%	2	Connecticut	82	55%	41
Washington	114	76%	3	Mississippi	82	55%	41
North Dakota	112	75%	4	Iowa	81	54%	44
Oklahoma	112	75%	4	South Carolina	80	53%	45
Texas	112	75%	4	Wyoming	79	53%	46
Wisconsin	110	73%	7	Maine	76	51%	47
Delaware	108	72%	8	Alabama	67	45%	48
Illinois	108	72%	8	Louisiana	57	38%	49
Minnesota	106	71%	10	California	51	34%	50
Tennessee	106	71%	10	Nebraska	47	31%	51
				Idaho	23	15%	52
Total possible score is 150							

The following table contains total scores for all states in declining order.

Total Child Care Center Scores and Ranks for All States in Declining Order			
States	Final Score	Percent of Total Score	Rank
Department of Defense	130	87%	1
New York	116	77%	2
Washington	114	76%	3
North Dakota	112	75%	4
Oklahoma	112	75%	4
Texas	112	75%	4
Wisconsin	110	73%	7
Delaware	108	72%	8
Illinois	108	72%	8
Minnesota	106	71%	10
Tennessee	106	71%	10
Indiana	105	70%	12
New Hampshire	104	69%	13
Virginia	104	69%	13
District of Columbia	103	69%	15
Utah	101	67%	16
New Jersey	99	66%	17
Maryland	98	65%	18

Total Child Care Center Scores and Ranks for All States in Declining Order

States	Final Score	Percent of Total Score	Rank
Massachusetts	98	65%	18
West Virginia	98	65%	18
North Carolina	97	65%	21
Arizona	96	64%	22
Georgia	96	64%	22
Pennsylvania	96	64%	22
Florida	95	63%	25
New Mexico	95	63%	25
Rhode Island	94	63%	27
Kansas	93	62%	28
Michigan	92	61%	29
Nevada	92	61%	29
South Dakota	92	61%	29
Oregon	91	61%	32
Missouri	90	60%	33
Ohio	90	60%	33
Alaska	88	59%	35
Colorado	88	59%	35
Vermont	88	59%	35
Montana	86	57%	38
Kentucky	85	57%	39
Hawaii	83	55%	40
Arkansas	82	55%	41
Connecticut	82	55%	42
Mississippi	82	55%	43
Iowa	81	54%	44
South Carolina	80	53%	45
Wyoming	79	53%	46
Maine	76	51%	47
Alabama	67	45%	48
Louisiana	57	38%	49
California	51	34%	50
Nebraska	47	31%	51
Idaho	23	15%	52

Total Possible Score is 150 points.

The following table includes total scores by state in alphabetical order.

Total Child Care Center Scores and Ranks for All States in Alphabetical Order			
States	Final Score	Percent of Total Score	Rank
Alabama	67	45%	48
Alaska	88	59%	35
Arizona	96	64%	22
Arkansas	82	55%	41
California	51	34%	50
Colorado	88	59%	35
Connecticut	82	55%	42
Delaware	108	72%	8
Department of Defense	130	87%	1
District of Columbia	103	69%	15
Florida	95	63%	25
Georgia	96	64%	22
Hawaii	83	55%	40
Idaho	23	15%	52
Illinois	108	72%	8
Indiana	105	70%	12
Iowa	81	54%	44
Kansas	93	62%	28
Kentucky	85	57%	39
Louisiana	57	38%	49
Maine	76	51%	47
Maryland	98	65%	18
Massachusetts	98	65%	18
Michigan	92	61%	29
Minnesota	106	71%	10
Mississippi	82	55%	43
Missouri	90	60%	33
Montana	86	57%	38
Nebraska	47	31%	51
Nevada	92	61%	29
New Hampshire	104	69%	13
New Jersey	99	66%	17
New Mexico	95	63%	25
New York	116	77%	2
North Carolina	97	65%	21
North Dakota	112	75%	4
Ohio	90	60%	33
Oklahoma	112	75%	4

Total Child Care Center Scores and Ranks for All States in Alphabetical Order

States	Final Score	Percent of Total Score	Rank
Oregon	91	61%	32
Pennsylvania	96	64%	22
Rhode Island	94	63%	27
South Carolina	80	53%	45
South Dakota	92	61%	29
Tennessee	106	71%	10
Texas	112	75%	4
Utah	101	67%	16
Vermont	88	59%	35
Virginia	104	69%	13
Washington	114	76%	3
West Virginia	98	65%	18
Wisconsin	110	73%	7
Wyoming	79	53%	46

Total Possible Score is 150 points.

Ranking of States for Program Benchmarks

Child Care Center Program Benchmarks

The following 11 program benchmarks were used to score the states:

- **Program Benchmark 1:** A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.
- **Program Benchmark 2:** Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.
- **Program Benchmark 3:** Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.
- **Program Benchmark 4:** Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
- **Program Benchmark 5:** Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
- **Program Benchmark 6:** Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive development, self-help skills, creative activities, limited screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
- **Program Benchmark 7:** Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas: hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
- **Program Benchmark 8:** Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas: SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation supervision and firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Corporal punishment is prohibited.
- **Program Benchmark 9:** Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and share written policies with parents.
- **Program Benchmark 10:** Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.
- **Program Benchmark 11:** Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.

The following table shows the program requirements score, percent of score and rankings for all the states in rank order.

Child Care Center Program Requirement Scores in Declining Order			
State	Program Score	Program Percent	Rank
Department of Defense	95	86%	1
Massachusetts	93	85%	2
New Jersey	90	82%	3
Wisconsin	88	80%	4
Rhode Island	87	79%	5
Minnesota	86	78%	6
North Dakota	86	78%	6
Delaware	85	77%	8
Washington	83	75%	9
District of Columbia	82	75%	10
Illinois	82	75%	10
Indiana	82	75%	10
New York	82	75%	10
Pennsylvania	79	72%	14
Texas	79	72%	14
Alaska	78	71%	16
New Hampshire	78	71%	16
Tennessee	78	71%	16
Vermont	78	71%	16
Connecticut	77	70%	20
Maryland	75	68%	21
Oklahoma	75	68%	21
Maine	73	66%	23
Oregon	73	66%	23
West Virginia	72	65%	25
Michigan	69	63%	26
Nevada	69	63%	26
Utah	68	62%	28
Virginia	68	62%	28
Arizona	67	61%	30
Colorado	67	61%	30
New Mexico	67	61%	32
Georgia	66	60%	33
South Dakota	65	59%	34
Hawaii	63	57%	35
Iowa	63	57%	35
Mississippi	63	57%	35
Kansas	62	56%	38

Child Care Center Program Requirement Scores in Declining Order			
State	Program Score	Program Percent	Rank
Ohio	62	56%	38
Florida	61	55%	40
Missouri	61	55%	40
North Carolina	60	55%	42
Kentucky	59	54%	43
Montana	56	51%	44
Wyoming	53	48%	45
Alabama	51	46%	46
California	51	46%	46
South Carolina	48	44%	48
Arkansas	44	40%	49
Nebraska	32	29%	50
Louisiana	31	28%	51
Idaho	23	21%	52
Total Possible Score is 110			

The following table shows the program requirements score, percent of score and rankings for all the states in alphabetical order.

Child Care Center Program Requirement Scores in Alphabetical Order			
State	Program Score	Program Percent	Rank
Alabama	51	46%	46
Alaska	78	71%	16
Arizona	67	61%	30
Arkansas	44	40%	49
California	51	46%	46
Colorado	67	61%	30
Connecticut	77	70%	20
Delaware	85	77%	8
Department of Defense	95	86%	1
District of Columbia	82	75%	10
Florida	61	55%	40
Georgia	66	60%	33
Hawaii	63	57%	35
Idaho	23	21%	52
Illinois	82	75%	10
Indiana	82	75%	10
Iowa	63	57%	35
Kansas	62	56%	38
Kentucky	59	54%	43

Child Care Center Program Requirement Scores in Alphabetical Order

State	Program Score	Program Percent	Rank
Louisiana	31	28%	51
Maine	73	66%	23
Maryland	75	68%	21
Massachusetts	93	85%	2
Michigan	69	63%	26
Minnesota	86	78%	6
Mississippi	63	57%	35
Missouri	61	55%	40
Montana	56	51%	44
Nebraska	32	29%	50
Nevada	69	63%	26
New Hampshire	78	71%	16
New Jersey	90	82%	3
New Mexico	67	61%	32
New York	82	75%	10
North Carolina	60	55%	42
North Dakota	86	78%	6
Ohio	62	56%	38
Oklahoma	75	68%	21
Oregon	73	66%	23
Pennsylvania	79	72%	14
Rhode Island	87	79%	5
South Carolina	48	44%	48
South Dakota	65	59%	34
Tennessee	78	71%	16
Texas	79	72%	14
Utah	68	62%	28
Vermont	78	71%	16
Virginia	68	62%	28
Washington	83	75%	9
West Virginia	72	65%	25
Wisconsin	88	80%	4
Wyoming	53	48%	45
Total possible program score is 110			

Ranking of States for Oversight Benchmarks

Child Care Center Oversight Benchmarks

The following four oversight benchmarks were used to score the states

- **Oversight Benchmark 1:** Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.
- **Oversight Benchmark 2:** Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.
- **Oversight Benchmark 3:** Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.
- **Oversight Benchmark 4:** Inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.

The following table shows the oversight score, percent of score and rankings for all the states in rank order.

Child Care Center Oversight Scores in Declining Order			
State	Oversight Score	Percentage	Rank
Arkansas	38	95%	1
North Carolina	37	92%	2
Oklahoma	37	92%	2
Virginia	36	90%	4
Department of Defense	35	88%	5
Florida	34	85%	6
New York	34	85%	6
Texas	33	82%	8
Utah	33	82%	8
South Carolina	32	80%	10
Kansas	31	78%	11
Washington	31	78%	11
Georgia	30	75%	13
Montana	30	75%	13
Arizona	29	72%	15
Missouri	29	72%	15
New Mexico	28	70%	17
Ohio	28	70%	17
Tennessee	28	70%	17
South Dakota	27	68%	20
Illinois	26	65%	21
Kentucky	26	65%	21
Louisiana	26	65%	21
New Hampshire	26	65%	21

Child Care Center Oversight Scores in Declining Order			
State	Oversight Score	Percentage	Rank
North Dakota	26	65%	21
West Virginia	26	65%	26
Wyoming	26	65%	21
Delaware	23	58%	28
Indiana	23	58%	28
Maryland	23	58%	28
Michigan	23	58%	28
Nevada	23	58%	28
Wisconsin	22	55%	33
Colorado	21	52%	34
District of Columbia	21	52%	34
Hawaii	20	50%	36
Minnesota	20	50%	36
Mississippi	19	48%	38
Oregon	18	45%	39
Iowa	18	45%	39
Pennsylvania	17	42%	41
Alabama	16	40%	42
Nebraska	15	38%	43
Alaska	10	25%	44
Vermont	10	25%	44
New Jersey	9	22%	46
Rhode Island	7	18%	47
Connecticut	5	12%	48
Massachusetts	5	12%	48
Maine	3	8%	50
California	0	0%	51
Idaho	0	0%	51
Total Possible Oversight Score is 40 points.			

The following table shows the oversight score, percent of score and rankings for all the states in alphabetical order.

Child Care Center Oversight Scores in Alphabetical Order			
State	Oversight Score	Percentage	Rank
Alabama	16	40%	42
Alaska	10	25%	44
Arizona	29	72%	15
Arkansas	38	95%	1
California	0	0%	51
Colorado	21	52%	34
Connecticut	5	12%	48

Child Care Center Oversight Scores in Alphabetical Order

State	Oversight Score	Percentage	Rank
Delaware	23	58%	28
Department of Defense	35	88%	5
District of Columbia	21	52%	34
Florida	34	85%	6
Georgia	30	75%	13
Hawaii	20	50%	36
Idaho	0	0%	51
Illinois	26	65%	21
Indiana	23	58%	28
Iowa	18	45%	39
Kansas	31	78%	11
Kentucky	26	65%	21
Louisiana	26	65%	21
Maine	3	8%	50
Maryland	23	58%	28
Massachusetts	5	12%	48
Michigan	23	58%	28
Minnesota	20	50%	36
Mississippi	19	48%	38
Missouri	29	72%	15
Montana	30	75%	13
Nebraska	15	38%	43
Nevada	23	58%	28
New Hampshire	26	65%	21
New Jersey	9	22%	46
New Mexico	28	70%	17
New York	34	85%	6
North Carolina	37	92%	2
North Dakota	26	65%	21
Ohio	28	70%	17
Oklahoma	37	92%	2
Oregon	18	45%	39
Pennsylvania	17	42%	41
Rhode Island	7	18%	47
South Carolina	32	80%	10
South Dakota	27	68%	20
Tennessee	28	70%	17
Texas	33	82%	8
Utah	33	82%	8

Child Care Center Oversight Scores in Alphabetical Order

State	Oversight Score	Percentage	Rank
Vermont	10	25%	44
Virginia	36	90%	4
Washington	31	78%	11
West Virginia	26	65%	26
Wisconsin	22	55%	33
Wyoming	26	65%	21
Total Possible Score is 40 Points			