

Louisiana School Readiness Credits

1. Child Care Expense Tax Credit — [R.S. 47:6104](#)

A school readiness child care expense tax credit is allowed for taxpayers who have a qualified dependent under the age of six who, during the year, attended a child care facility that participates in the quality rating program and has earned at least two stars.

The school readiness child care expense credit is based on the quality rating of the child care facility and is a percentage of the existing Louisiana child care expense credit provided for by [R.S. 47:297.4](#). The school readiness child care expense tax credit is in addition to the regular child care expense credit.

The percentage of the regular child care expense credit allowed for the school readiness tax credit is based on the child care facility's quality rating as follows:

Quality Rating of Child Care Facility	Percent of Louisiana Child Care Tax Credit
Five Star	200%
Four Star	150%
Three Star	100%
Two Star	50%
One Star or not participating in Quality Start	0%

2. Child Care Provider Tax Credit—[R.S. 47:6105](#)

Child care providers who own and operate a facility where care is given to foster children in the custody of the DCFS or to children who participate in the [Child Care Assistance Program](#) administered by the LDE are eligible for the refundable School Readiness Child Care Provider tax credit.

Quality Rating of Child Care Facility	Tax Credit Per Eligible Child
Five Star	\$1,500
Four Star	\$1,250
Three Star	\$1,000
Two Star	\$750
One Star or not participating in Quality Start	0

3. School Readiness Directors and Staff Tax Credit— R.S. 47:6106

Child care directors and eligible staff are eligible for a refundable tax credit if they work at least six months for a licensed child care facility that participate in the quality rating system and are enrolled in the [Louisiana Pathways Child Care Career Development System](#). The credit amount is as follows:

School Readiness Tax Credit Levels	Amount of 2018 Refundable School Readiness Tax Credit
Director I	\$1,715
Director II	\$2,286
Director III	\$2,857
Director IV	\$3,429
Child Care Teacher I	\$1,715
Child Care Teacher II	\$2,286
Child Care Teacher III	\$2,857

Child Care Teacher IV

\$3,429

The tax credit is claimed on the Resident Individual Income Tax return, Form IT-540, Schedule F