



# 82<sup>nd</sup> Regular Legislative Session/ June Special Session: Post Session Analysis

**JUNE 2011**

The 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislative Session has been characterized as unlike any other in recent history. The issue that consumed the majority of legislative time and energy was the state's massive budget shortfall, ranging from \$15 billion to \$27 billion depending on the source. Other issues dominating the legislative session included redistricting, sanctuary cities, and voter ID, just to name a few.

In spite of this widespread focus on the forthcoming 2012-2013 budget, early education advocates and leaders from all corners of Texas worked together to bring **one strong voice** to the Capitol on behalf of our youngest learners. At the close of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislature on May 30, 2011, and the June Special Session, the members of the ***Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition (TECEC)*** have many achievements to mark the progress made in this challenging session.

TECEC represents the early childhood education interests of more than 350 member organizations and 6,000 individuals across Texas.

Please use this resource as a guide to the outcomes of TECEC's legislative priorities for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session and the advancement of early education policy. Following this analysis, please see a quick sneak peak of what you can expect from TECEC during the interim. We look forward to working with each of you during this critical time and in preparation for 2013.

For more information about any of the topics discussed in this brief, please contact TECEC President & CEO Kara Johnson at [kjohnson@tecec.org](mailto:kjohnson@tecec.org).

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## How Early Education Fared in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Regular Legislative Session

TECEC began the 82<sup>nd</sup> Regular Legislative Session with the following legislative priorities:

- Invest in Proven Pre-k Reform Programs
- Improve the Child Care Subsidy System
- Lay the Foundation with Home Visitation
- Support Revenue-Neutral Quality Reforms

Here is an overview of the progress the Coalition made in each area:

### TECEC Priority: Invest in Proven Pre-k Reform Programs

The reality of the Texas' massive budget deficit going into the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session required TECEC and its partners to prioritize maintaining funding for high quality, proven pre-k reform programs. Pre-k reform programs include:

- Prekindergarten Early Start (PKES) Grant;
- Texas School Ready! Project; and
- Texas Higher Education Partnerships

Two of the three early education funding streams listed above received funding for 2012-2013:

### A total continued investment of **\$32.4 million** in proven, pre-k reform programs

- **Article VII, Rider 29.** This rider directs the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to continue to fund the Texas School Ready! Project at \$11.7 million each year of the biennium for a total of **\$23.4 million**. The funds are from TWC's allocation of the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). (Same funding level as 2010-2011 biennium)
- **Article III, Rider 55.** This rider includes \$3.5 million each year of the biennium for a total of **\$7 million** in General Revenue (GR) to the Texas School Ready! Project to ensure public school pre-k remains a robust partner in Texas' nationally recognized school readiness integration partnership model where child care, Head Start, and public school pre-k programs work together to share scarce resources while providing school-ready programs to children and families. (Loss of \$8 million from 2010-2011 biennium)

- **Texas Higher Education Partnership Project.** This rider continues funding of the Texas Workforce Commission’s Higher Education Partnership Project at \$1 million each year of the biennium for a total of **\$2 million**. These federal dollars allow two-year and four year universities across the state to enhance quality preparation of the early childhood workforce, improve quality in local early childhood education classrooms, and help teachers attain higher levels of education. (Same funding level as 2010-2011 biennium)

### **LOSS of the Pre-kindergarten Early Start (PKES) Grant Program**

The monumental loss for the early education field across Texas was the elimination of the Pre-kindergarten Early Start (PKES) grant program for public school pre-k from the state budget. The **total loss is a \$200 million dollar investment** for the biennium and it will be felt strongly by all of TECEC’s public school and early education partners across the state. The PKES Grant enabled more than 300 local education agencies to implement full day, high quality, public school pre-k programs.

According to the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University, high quality pre-k programs return at least \$3.50 for every \$1.00 invested. As a result, Texas will lose more than \$700 million dollars and Texas school districts and local communities will be forced to grapple with issues such as increases in the number of students being retained in the K-12 system, increases in the number of children being referred to special education, and fewer children graduating from high school, just to name a few.

**What’s next?** A number of school districts previously receiving funding through the PKES Grant are exploring alternative ways to fund high quality, full-day pre-k. In addition, many are attending the **2011 Texas Early Childhood Leadership Summit** July 13-15, 2011 in Austin in order to learn more about how to build school readiness integration partnerships between child care, Head Start, and public school pre-k.

### **Failed Pre-k Provisions in Senate Bill 22 and the Special Legislative Session**

TECEC would like to thank **Senator Florence Shapiro (R-Plano)** who worked unwaveringly throughout the legislative session to ensure proven, high quality pre-k programs for the children and families of Texas. Not only did she spearhead the passage of the early education budget riders this session, she also made a bold move to ensure that the half-day pre-k programs follow the same school-readiness requirements as those participating in the Pre-kindergarten Early Start (PKES) grant.

The passage of the pre-k provisions would have led to the following:

- Required school districts to follow the Pre-kindergarten Guidelines, which are currently voluntary;
- Required the evaluation of pre-k classrooms for school ready preparation of young children through the school readiness certification system;
- Required the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to provide technical assistance to classrooms not meeting school readiness guidelines after 2 grant review cycles;
- Required school districts to use a portion of their ½ day allotment (\$64/child) to fund the evaluation for the 2011-2012 school year; and
- Implemented a waiver for school districts that could demonstrate school ready effectiveness in other ways.

**Not all of TECEC's Coalition partners were in agreement with the provisions outlined in Senate Bill 22 or that were introduced in an amendment by Representative Mark Shelton (R-Fort Worth) during the Special Legislative Session.** While everyone agreed that Texas' priority is to ensure full-day high quality early education for the children and families in Texas, there was disagreement on how to work together to reach that goal. As a result, **TECEC will convene its diverse partners in the interim** in order to strategize a plan for 2013 that best reflects the goals of all its members and partners within the Coalition.

**TECEC joined Senator Shapiro, Raise Your Hand Texas, the Texas Association of Business, and others in their support of the provisions for the following reasons:**

- One of TECEC's top legislative priorities in 2013 will be to reinstate the Prekindergarten Early Start Grant program to ensure full day pre-kindergarten for Texas' most at-risk children. The provisions would have provided legislators additional reassurances to restore funding for the full day pre-k program;
- Students graduating from pre-k programs certified as being high quality score more than 22 percentage points higher than the statewide average on these reading diagnostics;
- The provisions took the best practices already required of Prekindergarten Early Start (PKES) grantees and implemented them in the remaining half-day pre-k program; and
- The state saved more than \$35.5 million dollars between 2005 and 2009 as a result of 5,000 children successfully participating in Texas School Ready Certified classrooms and not having to repeat kindergarten or first grade.

**Thank you!** TECEC would like to thank its members and partners who worked tirelessly this legislative session to ensure continued funding for early education despite the massive budget shortfall. While the elimination of the Pre-kindergarten Early Start (PKES) Grant Program was a huge loss for the field, TECEC is committed to ensuring these critical dollars are restored in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session in 2013. We look forward to working with each of you during the interim and next session.

**TECEC Priority: Improve the Child Care Subsidy System**

TECEC, its members and partners, and the **TECEC Child Care Subsidy Work Group** worked tirelessly over the interim to facilitate improvements to the child care subsidy system during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session through an interim charge led by **Chairman Mark Strama (D-Austin)** of the House Technology, Economic Development and Workforce Committee. The result of that hard work significantly increased public awareness across the state about the current subsidy system, engaged a number of additional stakeholders in the advocacy process, and yielded much of the system changes included in **Representative Strama's House Bill 2269**.

Unfortunately, House Bill 2269 **did not pass** this session. Although this critical piece of legislation did not make it through the legislative process in 2011, TECEC will continue to work with its Child Care Subsidy Work Group and members and partners in the interim on how to reform the child care subsidy system as well as implement the following components in HB 2269:

- Adequately funding the Texas Rising Star Program statewide;
- Improving the early education system for infants and toddlers;
- Updating the standards for the Texas Rising Star Program; and
- Providing technical assistance; just to name a few.

**Great news!** The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has included the revision of the Texas Rising Star Standards over the next two years as one of its proposed goals in the CCDF State Plan. Please stay tuned for more information.

**Thank you!** TECEC and its members and partners would like to thank **Representative Mark Strama** for his leadership on this critical issue both during the interim and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Regular Legislative Session. His vision and effort led to the first promising piece of child care subsidy reform legislation since 2003.

## **TECEC Priority: Lay the Foundation with Home Visitation**

**WIN!** TECEC is pleased to announce that despite the budget shortfall this session, **Nurse Family Partnership** (a proven, evidence-based home visitation program) will be nearly fully funded at **\$17.7 million for the biennium**. This is a loss of \$100,000. The original House and Senate budgets called for a loss of \$8.9 million for the biennium so this is a huge win for home visitation!

TECEC would like to acknowledge the incredible efforts of **TexProtects**, the **Texas Home Visitation Coalition**, **Texans Care for Children**, the **Center for Public Policy Priorities**, and others for their work to ensure continued funding for this critical program.

In the interim, TECEC will continue to convene the **Texas Home Visitation Coalition** in order to ensure adequate funding for all high quality home visitation programs in Texas, including:

- AVANCE
- Healthy Family Initiatives
- Nurse Family Partnership
- Parents As Teachers
- Texas HIPPY
- And others

## **TECEC Priority: Support Revenue-Neutral Quality Reforms**

We have much to celebrate! The massive budget shortfall created a unique and rare opportunity for **11 revenue-neutral, quality pieces of legislation to pass** this session, including the following:

**Senate Bill 76** by **Senator Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound)** has been signed by the Governor and will require stricter regulations for providers of relative child care who receive subsidies. The provisions of SB 76 include background checks for providers of relative child care, authorizes the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to investigate financial abuses in the child care system, and a number of other administrative powers that TWC may activate to ensure appropriate and lawful use of the child care system.

**Thank you!** TECEC would like to thank **Senator Nelson** for pursuing greater accountability in the child care system through Senate Bill 76.

**Senate Bill 260** by **Senator Royce West (D-Dallas)** has been signed by the Governor and increases the number of pre-service and continuing training hours required for child care professionals. Senate Bill 260 requires 24 hours of pre-service training and 24 hours of annual training for child care employees, and requires that child care directors receive 30 annual training hours. Passage of this legislation signals the state’s commitment to improving the quality of early education experiences and to enhancing the professional knowledge and opportunities available to early education professionals.

**Thank you!** Thank you to **Senator West** for his continued leadership this session, as well as his recognition on the critical importance of training the early education workforce. TECEC would also like to acknowledge all of its partners who came together and worked tirelessly on a compromise on this important piece of legislation. Without your willingness to come together, share ideas, and devise solutions, this legislative win would not have been possible.

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**Senate Bill 264** by **Senator Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo)** has been signed by the Governor and requires all local workforce development boards to provide a list of quality indicators to parents to ensure they are informed consumers. A “quality child care indicator” is defined as one of the following:

- Meets the Texas Rising Star Provider criteria;
- Is accredited by the a nationally recognized accrediting organization;
- Is certified under the School Readiness Certification System;
- Meets standards developed under Section 29.155(g) of the Education Code; or
- Has achieved any other measurable target relevant to improving the quality of child care in Texas

Each local workforce board has the option to decide how they will provide the above required information.

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**Senate Bill 265** by **Senator Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo)** was the first early education bill to pass the legislature and be signed into law by the Governor. This bill specifies the credentials that are required for trainers of early education providers. Passage of Senate Bill 265 enhances the quality of early education in Texas by ensuring that provider training is facilitated by early education leaders with strong credentials in subject areas including child development, guidance and discipline, age-appropriate curriculum, and teacher-child interaction.

**Thank you!** TECEC would like to thank **Senator Zaffirini** for her continued leadership and support of building a comprehensive and high quality early education system for the children and families in Texas. Her leadership over the past 9 years has led to increased funding, programs, and policies that lead to school readiness.

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**Senate Bill 400** by **Senator Florence Shapiro (R-Plano)** has been signed by the Governor and will ensure that high quality child care providers have greater purchasing power to enable savings that can in turn be used to improve quality in the child care center or home. Beginning on September 1, 2011, any child-care provider that meets the Texas Rising Star Provider criteria as described by Texas Workforce Commission rules will be able to receive group discounts on critical early education goods and services.

**Thank you!** TECEC would like to thank **Senator Shapiro** for authoring legislation that provides purchasing discounts to Texas Rising Star providers so that scarce resources can be used to enhance classroom quality in other ways. Thank you also to the **Building Better Beginnings Coalition** for spearheading the filing of this legislation.

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**Senate Bill 471** by **Senator Royce West (D-Dallas)** has been signed by the Governor for signature. SB 471 requires that all child care provider staff receive training in prevention and recognition of signs of sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children. The bill further requires that providers receive training in how and when to report instances of such abuse. SB 471 requires child care placement agencies and providers to develop internal policies that address maltreatment of children in care.

**Thank you!** TECEC would like to thank our partners at **TexProtects** for leading innumerable dedicated advocacy efforts to ensure passage of Senate Bill 471.

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**Senate Bill 1178** by **Senator Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound)** has also been signed by the Governor. SB 1178 increases protections for children in paid care through numerous provisions, including enhanced background check procedures, stricter licensing requirements, and greater authority for the Department of Family and Protective Services to implement, monitor, and enforce licensing standards.

**Thank you! Senator Nelson** has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the safety of young Texans in child care settings. TECEC applauds Senator Nelson for her dedication to this critical issue.

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**House Bill 434** by **Representative Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound)** has been signed by the Governor. HB 434 adds language to the minimum standards for licensed child care facilities and registered family homes that requires providers to follow the directions of a child's health care provider with regard to specialized medical treatment.

**House Bill 3051** by **Representative Joe Pickett (D-El Paso)** has been signed by the Governor. HB 3051 allows certain child care facilities to care for children up to 15 hours a day in order to provide additional support services for families, including parent education classes and interactive child-parent learning instructional activities.

**House Bill 3404** by **Representative Elliott Naishtat (D-Austin)** has been signed by the Governor. HB 3404 establishes the creation of a child care advisory committee to advise the Texas Facilities Commission with respect to the state child care center.

**House Bill 3547** by **Representative Carol Alvarado (D-Houston)** has been signed by the Governor. HB 3547 grants local officials the authority to inspect and enforce state laws and rules regarding fire safety standards at licensed day care homes and registered family homes.

**In total more than 30 early education bills were filed during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session! Thank you again to all the leaders and advocates who supported passage of the 11 bills outlined above.**

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Members of the Coalition supported numerous other bills that did not make it through the legislative process this session. Most notably, TECEC advocated for the following legislation, both of which remained in committee at the close of the Regular Legislative Session:

- **Senate Bill 1813** by **Senator Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo)** expanded the definition of public school to include Head Start so that these programs can access discounts to technology services. TECEC testified in support of SB 1813 and hopes to see this resource-saving legislation pass in 2013.

- **House Bill 2269** by Representative Mark Strama (D-Austin). *For a full review of HB 2269, please see page 5.*

For a complete list of early education legislation, please see TECEC's Updated Early Childhood Education (ECE) Bill Tracker, available online at [www.tecec.org](http://www.tecec.org).

**Early Childhood Intervention (ECI):** In addition to advocating for the aforementioned quality early education legislation, TECEC also worked with its members and partners to push for adequate funding for the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program. TECEC would like to acknowledge the incredible efforts of the **ECI Statewide Coalition**, which was launched by **Texans Care for Children**, and met every two weeks throughout the legislative session to ensure one strong voice for ECI. Their efforts led to an additional \$20 million for ECI in the final budget compared to the Legislature's initial proposal. In the end, however, the budget crisis took priority, and the program will be funded at approximately \$30 million less than in FY 2010-2011, leading to 4,000 fewer children receiving these critical services. TECEC will work with its partners at Texans Care for Children and the ECI Statewide Coalition in the interim to strategize next steps for this important program that promotes the early identification and treatment of early learning challenges, thereby enhancing school readiness for all young children.

**WIN! Pre-k Instructional Materials:** Last but not least, TECEC worked with the Texas Association of Business (TAB) and its members and partners to ensure the full funding of pre-k instructional materials. Great news! Pre-k instructional materials were fully funded through Senate Bill 6 (SB 6). SB 6 adjusts the current system by establishing what is now referred to as the **Instructional Materials Allotment**. Instructional materials now include a book, supplementary materials, computer software, magnetic media, DVD, CD-ROM, computer courseware, online services, etc.

A school district will now receive an annual allotment based upon the number of students enrolled in the district the previous school year and the per student allotment amount determined by the Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency. School districts will now have the option to use the allotment to purchase instructional materials and/or technological equipment adopted by the State Board of Education (SBOE). All purchased materials and equipment must assist the school district in meeting state student performance standards. Please stay tuned for additional information on pre-k instructional materials.

Together the above bills and budget wins enhance the quality of early childhood education in Texas and represent *major* gains made by the early education advocacy movement given the budget challenges faced by the legislature this session.

## TECEC 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session Activity Summary

Early Education Bills Tracked	33 bills
Pre-k Day at the Texas Capitol February 1, 2011	2,000+ advocates and young children from across Texas, including communities as distant as El Paso, the Rio Grande Valley, and Wichita Falls
Testimony Provided at Legislative Hearings	13 oral testimonies
Early Education Bills Registered in Support of But Not Testifying	10 bills
Public Engagement/Advocacy Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 statewide advocacy E-alerts</li> <li>• 24 E-alerts to targeted and statewide members and partners</li> <li>• 5 statewide articles and/or news stories with TECEC referenced or quoted</li> </ul>
Legislative Visits	TECEC conducted approximately 125 legislative visits throughout the 82 <sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session

### Partnerships that Made All the Difference during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session

The Texas early education movement faced its greatest challenge to date entering the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session. The movement would not have secured \$32.4 million in the budget or passed 11 bills if it had not been for its members or the critical partnerships created in the interim and during the legislative session to ensure **ONE VOICE**. TECEC would like to extend a special thank you to the following organizations/entities that partnered with us in our efforts this session:

**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS**  
**RAISE YOUR HAND TEXAS**  
**BUILDING BETTER BABIES COALITION**  
**TEXAS PTA**

**Texas Association of Business (TAB)**-TECEC joined forces with the Texas Association of Business prior to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session in order to form a coalition called the **Coalition for Pre-k Quality and Accountability**. This coalition served as a bipartisan, business and education voice in support of school readiness pre-k reform programs. TECEC would like to thank **Bill Hammond**, President and CEO, of the Texas Association of Business for his leadership on this issue and for his incredible determination throughout the session. He testified multiple times, made scores of legislative visits, and made the case for pre-k through print and television media. TECEC would also like to thank **Nelson Salinas** from TAB for testifying in support of multiple early education bills throughout the session.

**Raise Your Hand Texas (RYHT)**-TECEC once again united with the outstanding leadership at Raise Your Hand Texas in order to advocate for high quality early education through child care, Head Start, and public school pre-k. The single focus of Raise Your Hand Texas is increasing student achievement. This is why the leadership at RYHT continues to get involved with high quality early education because they know that access to high quality pre-k programs lead to children that are school-ready upon entry into kindergarten, thereby setting students up for long-term student achievement. TECEC would like to thank the **Board Leadership** at Raise Your Hand Texas, as well as **Debra Salge, Christian Needham, Elizabeth Lorenz, and Miriam Goldberg** for their hard work and dedication throughout the entire legislative session.

**Building Better Beginnings Coalition**-TECEC connected with the incredible work taking place through the efforts of the Building Better Beginnings Coalition this session. The coalition focused on multiple issues including increasing training for child care workers/directors, group discounts for early education services and goods, and increasing the quality of the early education system overall. TECEC would like to thank **Melanie Rubin** and **Susan Craven** for their incredible dedication and leadership of this statewide coalition.

**Texas PTA**-TECEC was thrilled to partner with the Texas Parent Teacher Association (Texas PTA) during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session in order to advocate for high quality early education, as well as launch Early Childhood Texas PTA Programs for parents of children ages birth to five in child care, Head Start, or pre-k settings. TECEC would like to thank **Sharon Goldblatt** and **Kyle Ward** for their hard work throughout the legislative session, and their foresight to launch early education PTA programs throughout the state to ensure parents are engaged as early as possible in the lives of their young children.

## TECEC Interim Efforts

So, what is next for the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition (TECEC) now that the Regular Legislative Session and Special Session have come to a close? Here is a **sneak preview** of what you can expect from TECEC in each of the four areas of our work, including public policy, community organizing, public awareness, and research.

### Public Policy

- **Interim Charges**-TECEC will work with Texas policymakers in order to submit interim charges related to child care, Head Start, and/or public school pre-k. Interim charges are specific issue areas that legislators study in between legislative sessions that help to inform what legislation will be filed in the next legislative session.
- **2013 Public Policy Work Group**-TECEC will pull together diverse leaders from the child care, Head Start, and public school pre-k sectors in order to analyze the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session, review the next set of **The Texas Plan** policy options, and build consensus for the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session in 2013.
- **The Texas Plan Taskforces**-TECEC is launching two statewide taskforces in the fall of 2011. One will be focused on **English Language Learners** and the other on **Children with Special Needs**. These taskforces will create the next set of public policy recommendations to ensure our youngest Texans have access to high quality early childhood education.
- **Monitoring of State Agency Efforts and Legislation Passed in 2011**-TECEC will spend the interim monitoring the early education efforts of state agencies such as the Texas Workforce Commission, the Department of Family and Protective Services, the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, and the Texas Education Agency. In addition, TECEC will monitor the implementation of the 11 bills that were passed during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session.

### Community Organizing

- **Post-Session Texas Tour**-Immediately following the close of the legislative session, TECEC will travel the state providing updates to local communities on what happened during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session, interim efforts, and how to get involved in preparing for 2013.

- **Pre-Session Texas Tour**-Once TECEC has a draft legislative agenda for the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session, TECEC will travel the state in order to gather feedback, build support, and prepare for the 2013 Legislative Session.

## Public Awareness

- **Media Engagement**-TECEC will continue to submit opinion-editorials and letters to the editor to ensure statewide media coverage of early education issues impacting children ages birth to five.
- **E-Communications**-TECEC will continue to regularly communicate with its 6,000 members and partners via E-alerts, Facebook, and Twitter in order to ensure you receive the most up-to-date information on Texas early childhood education efforts.
- **Statewide Events**-TECEC will host multiple statewide events between now and the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session in order to gather together the top minds in the field of early education in Texas. The first event will be the **2011 Texas Early Childhood Leadership Summit: Making Meaning Out of Change** where approximately 1,000 early education professionals will gather for a 3-day professional development summit in Austin.

## Research

- **Resource to Legislators**-TECEC will continue to serve as a resource to policymakers and community leaders on issues related to child care, Head Start, and public school pre-k.
- **Literature Reviews**-TECEC will conduct thorough literature reviews for The Texas Plan Taskforces related to English Language Learners and Children with Special Needs.

These are a just a few of the things you can expect from TECEC between now and the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session in 2013.

**THANK YOU!**

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TECEC would like to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication throughout the legislative session! This work would not be possible without advocates, organizations, business leaders, higher education institutions, community leaders, parents, foundations, and concerned Texans coming together to ensure that children have access to high quality, school-ready child care, Head Start, and public school pre-k programs.

If you have not done so already, we invite you to get involved in the historic Texas early education movement that has led to millions of dollars being infused into the early education system and dozens of bills being passed in just nine years.

Thank you again for all that you do and we look forward to working together as we prepare for 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session in 2013!

For more information, please visit the TECEC website at [www.tecec.org](http://www.tecec.org).

### **PLEASE DONATE TO OUR EFFORTS TODAY**

TECEC exists in order to build a high quality early childhood education system for the children and families in Texas. We work to strengthen child care, Head Start, and public school pre-k to ensure every child in Texas enters kindergarten school-ready and on level with their peers.

#### **Over the past 9 years, TECEC efforts have led to the following:**

- More than \$125 million invested in child care, Head Start, and public school pre-k by the Texas Legislature;
- Dozens of public policies passed to strengthen the early education system in the state;
- Strong alliances and partnerships with the business and higher education community;
- More than 100 print, television, and radio interviews related to early education;
- Multiple publications related to high quality early education;
- Strong bipartisan support for early education in the Texas Legislature;
- And much more.

If you have not done so already, **please contribute to our efforts today**. Visit our website at [www.tecec.org](http://www.tecec.org) and click on “Donate.” Thank you again and we look forward to our continued work together.

## A HUGE THANK YOU TO TECEC INTERIM WORKGROUPS:

Finally, TECEC would like to take a moment to thank representatives from each of the following entities that served on one of TECEC's Interim Workgroups:

Association of Texas Professional Educators

AVANCE

Building Better Babies Coalition

Child Care Associates

Child Inc.

Collaborate for Children

Day Nursery of Abilene

Early Care and Education Consortium

Educational First Steps

ESC Region 19 Head Start

Family Service Association

Good Street Baptist Church Child Care

Healthy Family Initiatives

Kids R Kids

League of Women Voters

Mainspring Schools

National Child Care Coalition

Neighborhood Centers, Inc.

Nurse Family Partnership

OZ Systems

Parents As Teachers

Pre-k Now

Raise Your Hand Texas

Spring Branch ISD

Stepping Stone Schools

Teaching Mentoring Communities

Texans Care for Children

Texas Association of Business

Texas Association for the Education of Young Children

Texas Association for Infant Mental Health

TACCRRRA

Texas Association of School Administrators

Texas Association of School Boards

Texas Association of Workforce Boards

Texas Head Start Association

Texas HIPPY

Texas Licensed Child Care Association

Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors

Association

Texas PBS

Texas PTA

Texas State Teachers Association

TexProtects

United Way of Greater Houston

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas

United Way of North Texas

United Ways of Texas

Voices for Children San Antonio

Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande

YWCA Corpus Christi

Thank you to each one of you for coming together, sharing your expertise, and creating an open and honest dialogue regarding the best policies to implement in 2011 in order to ensure a high quality early education system for our youngest Texans. Not everyone agreed during the interim or the legislative session. However, your expertise led to the passage of policies that best reflect the diverse perspectives and knowledge in the field. Thank you and we look forward to our continued work together between now and the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session in 2013.