



The Texas Plan-Edition 2

Statewide Early Education and Development System

“Texas SEEDS”

PURPOSE: The Texas Plan provides a detailed proposal for a voluntary, integrated system of quality early care and education (the Texas Statewide Early Education System—Texas SEEDS) for all children birth to five in the state, beginning with three and four year olds. The Plan is grounded in well-developed research on early brain development and promising preschool models incorporating quality early education components, and is tailored to address Texas’ unique demographic and economic challenges.

VISION: The Texas Plan ensures that **ALL children have the tools to succeed in school and life; businesses have the skilled workforce needed to compete successfully in the new global economy; and ALL Texas citizens have the knowledge and confidence to fully engage in democratic processes and civic life.**

EFFECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE	QUALITY STANDARDS	FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES
T H E T E X A S P L A N	<p>The 50 policy recommendations of The Texas Plan are derived from a set of overarching guiding principles which calls for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of ALL children • Inclusion of ALL provider types, e.g. Child Care (For-Profit, Non-Profit, Corporate Sponsored, Faith-Based and Home Based); Head Start; and Public Prekindergarten in a single unified system • Equitable assessment and accountability measures applied to all provider types • Single rates of reimbursement to providers tied to high quality standards • Sliding scale costs to parents • Parental choice • Commitment to build a public-private initiative using all existing systems 	

BACKGROUND: The Texas Plan was conceptualized over a two-year period by a statewide collaborative of researchers, educators, practitioners, consumers and other key stakeholders led by Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition [TECEC] and the Texas Program for Society and Health [TPSH] at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. TECEC represents more than 130 child-interested community organizations from across the state and is dedicated to building a unified system of quality early care and education that prepares all children in Texas for success in their education and life. In Fall 2004, TECEC and TPSH presented a revised draft of The Texas Plan in community meetings across the state. The communities’ suggestions were then incorporated into a final revised Edition 2, which is available on the TECEC website at www.TECEC.org.

IMPLEMENTATION: A ten-year timeline is envisioned for the gradual implementation of the proposed system. Thus, included in the **TECEC Legislative Priorities** for the 79th Legislative Session are early steps:

- Appointment of a blue-ribbon committee on financing;
- Support for expansion of the TEEM project authorized by Senate Bill 76 in the 78th legislative session (which will continue work on the development of quality standards);
- Quality improvement through consumer information and professional development; and
- Creation for families of a single point of access for information and referrals.