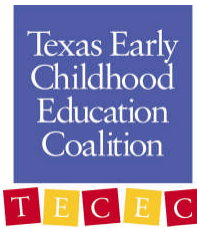


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



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## The Answer that Texans Have Been Looking For: Pre-K Works

AUSTIN, TEXAS-December 11, 2006- Texas has joined a handful of other states in conducting a state-specific analysis of the costs and benefits of investing in high quality, voluntary and universally accessible, pre-kindergarten. A team of graduate students from the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University, under the supervision of Dr. Lori L. Taylor, conducted the year-long cost-benefit analysis.

The study concluded that, even under very conservative assumptions, the benefits of universally accessible, high-quality pre-kindergarten in Texas greatly outweigh the costs, and for every \$1.00 invested, at least \$3.50 is returned to Texas communities. The report examined both the short- and long-term benefits and found the following:

- Reduced special education costs to school districts;
- Less grade retention and decreased dropout rates;
- Savings to the juvenile and adult justice systems;
- Increased lifetime earnings for pre-k participants;
- Increased earnings for mothers as they enter the workforce;
- Reduced child welfare costs; and
- Reduced involvement in criminal activities

“Previous studies have demonstrated the benefits of high-quality pre-kindergarten, but this is the first analysis to examine both the benefits and the costs in a Texas context,” said Dr. Taylor. “I think the findings are striking and persuasive.”

“Thanks to the careful analysis conducted by the Bush School of Government, we now have the Texas-specific data to demonstrate what we have always known--Texas benefits from high quality pre-k,” said Kaitlin Guthrow, Executive Director of the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition (TECEC). “This study now brings home 30 years worth of national data and provides solid evidence on why Texans should invest in a voluntary and high quality pre-k program in Texas,” she added.

“As the state gears up for the 2007 Texas Legislative Session set to begin in January, voluntary pre-k is guaranteed to be a topic of conversation,” said Jason Sabo, Vice President of Public Policy at United Ways of Texas. “Thanks to the Bush School of Government, not only has pre-k been found to be a solid investment, but we also know it can save Texas billions of dollars while ensuring a solid workforce in the future,” he added.

To learn more about the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition (TECEC), please visit [www.tecec.org](http://www.tecec.org).

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The Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition (TECEC) represents more than 230 member organizations from across Texas dedicated to building a high quality early childhood education and development system for children ages birth to five.