



## *Maintain Support for Existing Quality Programs throughout Texas*

**Expand support is needed for the Pre-kindergarten Expansion Grant Program, Texas Early Education Model (TEEM), the School Readiness Certification System, and Texas Rising Star.**

### **The Solution**

**Provide expanded support for existing programs including:**

- ✦ **Pre-kindergarten Early Grant Program-** The Texas Education Agency (TEA) requested an additional \$65 million towards the Pre-k Expansion Grant Program in its 2010-2011 Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR).
- ✦ **Texas Early Education Model (TEEM) and the School Readiness Certification System-** TEEM now exists in 38 communities and with the support of both the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is projected to serve 61,000 children.
- ✦ **Texas Rising Star-** subsidized childcare is essential to enable low income families on public assistance to achieve self-sufficiency. The establishment of quality criteria raises the norms for child care services.

### **Background**

Since 1999, 46,131 children have been served in 287 districts and charter schools and local, non-public school partners that participate in School Readiness Integration Plans. A key component of the program is the collaboration between child care, Head Start, and public school pre-k. TEEM and the School Readiness Certification System were created through Senate Bill 76 (2003) and Senate Bill 23 (2005) under the auspices of the State Center for Early Childhood Development designated by Governor Rick Perry in 2002.

The pre-kindergarten Expansion Grant Program has given school districts the resources to open their programs to additional children as well as options for full day pre-kindergarten programs. TEEM results demonstrate that children who participate achieve substantial advances in oral language and emergent literacy skills providing the foundation for reading, a major predictor of future school success. Texas Rising Star is a program that encourages child care facilities in Texas to serve subsidized children and exceed the state's minimum licensing standards for child care facilities. Ultimately, these efforts translate into better preparation for learning, increased self esteem (a precursor to academic success), reduced behavioral problems and opportunities for families to exit the welfare roles, become productive employees, and support their families.

### **Cost Estimates:**

Each of the above programs will ask for additional or continued funding during the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session.