



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 (A 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 170 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 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. The 79th Legislative Session ended with the passage of three out of four of TECEC’s legislative priorities, representing the initial implementation steps toward The Texas Plan:

- House Bill 2808 directs the Legislative Budget Board to study and make recommendations to secure additional funding to meet the resource needs of the early care and education system;
- Senate Bill 23 authorizes the expansion of the TEEM (Texas Early Education Model) project, through which quality standards will be continually developed; and
- House Bill 2048 creates an online single point of access system for information and referrals for families searching for early care and education providers.