



**A Pragmatic Approach to the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**  
**PROPOSED INTERIM CHARGES FOR THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE**

During the 18-month interim between legislative sessions, staff, committee chairs, and legislative leaders establish priorities for consideration in the next session that begins January 2007. Now is the time to begin building on policies passed during the 78<sup>th</sup> and 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Sessions, and move forward in laying the groundwork for additional early childhood education priorities in the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. Over the next 15 months, TECEC plans to ask the Legislature to examine the needs of the early care and education field such as **access to high quality preschool programs for children; high quality care for infants and toddlers and preschoolers not yet involved in TEEM; quality initiatives for local communities; professional development opportunities for the early childhood workforce; and financing for the early care and education system in order to support high quality programs for more children in Texas.** Education is the key to economic development and pre-kindergarten is the key to educational success for all children, particularly those living in poverty. Now is the time to invest our time and resources where we will get the greatest return-Texas' youngest children.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"><b>TEXAS EARLY EDUCATION MODEL (TEEM)</b></div> <p>Examine opportunities to expand access to quality early preschool programs through the Texas Early Education Model (TEEM) in order to decrease waiting lists and serve more children.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"><b>INFANTS &amp; TODDLERS</b></div> <p>Examine the availability and quality of community-based centers' capacity to serve infants and toddlers of all income levels.</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"><b>HIGH STANDARDS</b></div> <p>Identify opportunities for the creation of consistent, high standards across all early childhood programs, i.e. teacher qualifications, child-to-staff ratios, parent involvement, instructional materials and hours served.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"><b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b></div> <p>Examine opportunities to develop a systematic professional development system that results in recognized certification with comparable compensation and benefits, leading to a strong early childhood education workforce that successfully prepares children for school.</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"><b>FINANCING</b></div> <p>Monitor the implementation of House Bill 2808 to support high quality early childhood education programs including an analysis of all public and private revenue streams.</p>	

Based upon feedback from stakeholders across the state, TECEC has developed these proposed interim charges to be studied by the Texas Legislature for the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. TECEC will continue to work with partners in order to meet ALL the needs of the early care and education field. For more information, please visit our website at [www.tecec.org](http://www.tecec.org).