



## ***Support the Development of Early Childhood Education Professionals***

### **The Problem**

The state of Texas requires only eight pre-service and 15 annual training hours to meet the minimum training standards for a child care professional to work with young children.

### **The Solutions:**

Increase the pre-service training hours from 8 to 40 hours and the annual training from 15 hours to 30 hours.

These changes will expand the capacities and competency of professional child care providers, improve child safety and development outcomes and enhance school readiness.

### **Background**

Research indicates that highly educated early childhood teachers are more likely to develop strong, responsive, interpersonal relationships with their students. These strong interpersonal teacher-student relationships affect a child's motivation to learn, social competence, and later school achievement.

Yet, these valuable child care professionals who are entrusted with the care and early education of a growing population are required to meet only minimal standards of training and education as a professional child care provider. Currently, the state of Texas requires only eight pre-service and 15 annual training hours to meet the minimum training standards for a child care teacher working with young children. In contrast, many other service professions who have little or no contact with children, are required to undergo significantly greater numbers of training hours prior to licensure and practice.

### **Cost Estimate**

No fiscal note at this time

### **For Additional Information**

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