



Early Childhood Education Programs in Texas

Child Care

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) manages the child care subsidy program in conjunction with 28 Local Workforce Development Boards across the state. The child care subsidy program primarily serves children ages birth to 13 from low income families. Child care is offered on average 45 hours per week year round. Texas is heavily reliant upon federal dollars to help economically disadvantaged parents afford child care so that they may enter and remain in the workforce. In 2006, **52%** of all regulated **child care facilities provided care** for TWC subsidized children. In 2006, the average number of **children served** was **118,334** and the monthly average number of **children on the waiting list** to receive care was **33,172**.

Head Start and Early Head Start

Federally funded Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide comprehensive services to low income families including early education, health, nutrition, support services for families, and diverse opportunities for parent involvement. Head Start on average is offered 30 hours per week for 9 months of the year. **Average federal spending per child in the program is \$7,091**. In 2006, **75,063 children** in Texas participated in **Head Start** and **8,666 children** were served in **Early Head Start**.

Public Pre-Kindergarten

The public pre-kindergarten initiative provides a half-day (3 hours) program to 3 and 4 year olds who are homeless, eligible for free or reduced priced lunch, or have limited English proficiency. In 2006, eligibility was expanded to children of members of the armed forces on active duty or who have been injured or killed on active duty. In 2007, eligibility was expanded to children in the foster care system. School districts with 15 or more eligible children who are at least 4 years old are required to offer the program and currently 80% of school districts in Texas are offering pre-k services. Public Pre-k on average is offered 20 hours per week for 9 months of the year. **Average state spending per child is \$2,653**. During the 2005-2006 school year, **182,293 Texas children** attended pre-kindergarten including **44% of four-year-olds and 4% of three-year-olds**. Competitive expansion grants are offered to districts interested in providing full day (7 hours) care with priority given to schools with low third grade reading scores. Although the pre-k program is managed by school districts, the state encourages districts to utilize community based child care and Head Start centers as program sites.

Texas Early Education Model

The Texas Early Education Model (TEEM) was created in 2003 under the leadership of the State Center for Early Childhood Development and focuses on improving the school readiness of young children. TEEM is a model for delivering pre-k services in partnership with school districts, Head Start and child care providers. The key program components include a research based curriculum, online professional development for teachers, and innovative progress monitoring tools for child learning. TEEM has been piloted in **more than 30 Texas communities** throughout the state serving **more than 40,000 children**.

FAST FACTS

In 2006, Texas became the fastest growing state in the nation.

More than 1 in 5 Texas children are growing up in poverty.

Children who participate in high quality early education are better prepared for school and less likely to drop out.

For every \$1 invested in high quality pre-k, at least \$3.50 is returned to Texas communities.