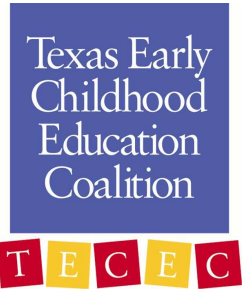


How Early Care and Education is Delivered in Texas



The three primary early care and education programs in Texas are child care, Head Start and public school pre-k. Each delivery system is unique with its own benefits and challenges in meeting the needs of families. A mixed delivery model offers a “best of all worlds” approach by sharing resources between the three existing systems. Mixed delivery can be achieved through **School Readiness Integration (SRI)** partnerships which operate on the principle of creating an integrated system of early care and education options.

	Description	Benefits	Challenges
Child Care	Child Care programs are provided in multiple settings, including for-profit, non-profit, faith-based, corporate, military, registered, and listed family homes. Depending on the setting, some programs are licensed with the state and some are not.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide variety of programs to meet the needs of the child and parents • Extended hours available, including evenings and weekends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varying levels of quality from minimum standards to national accreditation • Varying education levels of the teachers from a GED to higher education • Potential waiting lists
Head Start/ Early Head Start	Federally funded program serving low-income children and their families at or below the poverty level. The program includes services such as medical, dental, mental health, nutrition, and parental involvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive support services are available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational • Economic • Health • Social 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Start only has resources to serve 2% of those eligible for Early Head Start and 42% of those eligible for regular Head Start
Public School Pre-K	Program serves 3 and 4 year old children that speak limited English, are educationally disadvantaged, who are homeless, have been in the foster care system, or with parents on active duty, in an activated reserve unit, or who were killed or wounded in action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher with a BA degree • State approved curriculum • Resources and funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most schools only offer half day programs • Not all teachers are certified in early childhood education • No class size limits • Not all children are eligible
Mixed Delivery/ SRI	A model for delivering quality pre-k education through partnerships between public school pre-k, Head Start, and child care providers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-kindergarten curriculum • Access to shared resources from the 3 programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not in every community • Needs additional funding and support • Requires systematic changes in all three systems

The **Texas Early Education Model (TEEM)**, is one example of how School Readiness Integration can meet the diverse needs of parents and communities. At TEEM sites, local school districts partner with child care and Head Start instead of facing the cost of building new facilities to accommodate eligible three and four year olds. This enables children to receive high quality instruction in a setting that provides a full day of care and accommodates parents’ work schedules.