



**PARENTS AS ADVOCATES
WAYS TO GET INVOLVED**

Find Out Who Represents You in Austin	Sign up to Receive TECEC E-Newsletters
<p>You can find out who represents you at http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/.</p>	<p>TECEC will update you on a regular basis on what is occurring with the early childhood education movement in Texas and will provide you with ways you can get involved. You can sign up on the TECEC website at www.tecec.org.</p>
Meet Your Legislators	Register to Vote
<p>Set up a meeting with your legislators either in their home district or in Austin. You will most likely meet with their staff, which can be just as effective as meeting with the legislators themselves.</p>	<p>The 2008 Elections are right around the corner and a great opportunity for you to vote for someone that votes for kids. You can register to vote by going to the Texas Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.tx.us</p>
Write or Call Your Legislators	Attend Candidate Forums
<p>Last session, TECEC heard over and over again that legislators wanted to hear more from parents. Make sure you let them know what is important to you, either by writing them a letter or giving them a call.</p>	<p>As the 2008 Elections get closer, your community will host a number of candidate forums giving candidates running for office the opportunity to answer questions from members of the community. Be sure to attend a forum to ask candidates questions, as well as let them know what is important to you.</p>
Come to Austin	Attend Community Meetings
<p>During legislative sessions, TECEC hosts an event in order to provide advocates with the opportunity to travel to Austin and have their voices heard. In 2007, TECEC conducted a "Pre-k Day" and had a model child care classroom set up in the Capitol Rotunda, a press conference, and artwork submitted from children across the state.</p>	<p>Every Texas community has its own unique strengths and challenges. Be sure to find out the local organizations that are advocating on behalf of your child and ask them how you can get involved.</p>

HAVE FUN!