



# BEECH - Beginning Education: Early Child Care at Home

*BEECH is a unique tool that can raise the quality of care in Texas for some of the states most vulnerable children. BEECH is an online learning environment that consists of 20 training sessions that are specifically geared towards home-based child care providers. Users, log on and participate in highly interactive training sessions, while the system gauges their progress and learning. The system is available in English and in Spanish. Additionally, the project also includes a Randomized Controlled Trial study that will contribute to ensuring BEECH is the most effective training tool for this unique population.*

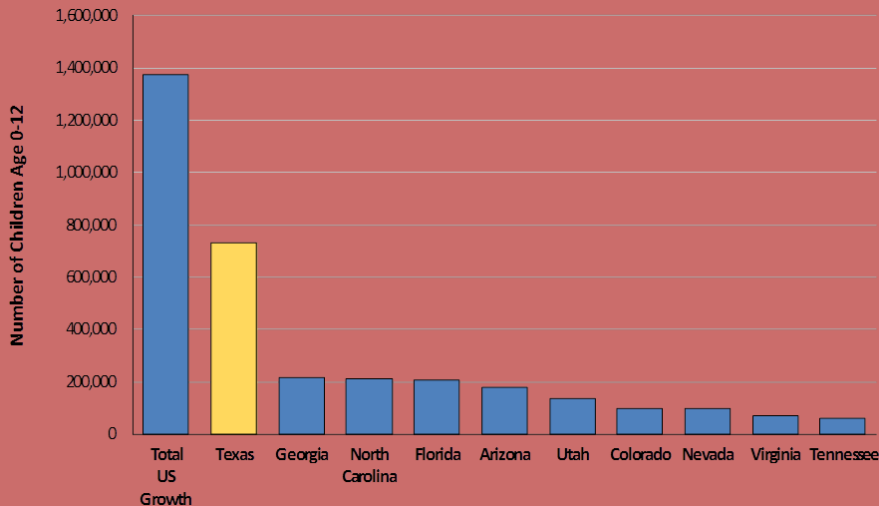


## Beginning Education: Early Childcare at Home (BEECH)

### Home based child care in Texas

- Home-based providers account for **54% of the child care providers in the state**
- Home-based providers provide **8% of the child care slots available - about 50,000 slots statewide**
- Due to Texas' rapidly growing early childhood population, **home-based care will continue to grow**
- Home-based providers in Texas are **monitored less frequently than center-based providers and follow fewer regulations**
- **Few quality improvement efforts** are directed towards them home-based providers

Growth of Number of Children ages 0-12, year 2000-2010



The rate of growth in the population of children in the state of Texas far outpaces any other state. Between 2000 and 2010, Texas accounted for 53.2% growth in the child population in the entire U.S. With this type of growth, Texas should consider how to raise quality in all early care and education environments, and home-based care is no exception. In fact, home-based care interventions are especially needed because these providers care for many of the most vulnerable children in the state and also represents some of the least educated and least trained providers.

### Sustainability

BEECH is incredibly affordable for the state

To run effectively the system requires an administrator and a coordinator, as well funds to solve technology issues as they arise

For \$500,000 BEECH could be made available to at least 1/2 of the home-based providers in the state over the next 2 years

The cost per provider is about \$85 each

A Spanish version of the system has already been created, at no additional cost to the state

Since BEECH is based off of a research-tested proven parent training model, it has the potential to serve as an effective parenting intervention as well



## Texas Early Childhood Path to School Readiness

The Texas Early Learning Council is working towards the goal of improving school readiness in Texas by identifying needs and priority areas in the early care and education system, developing strategies for improvement, and facilitating high-quality outcomes.

### Needs

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Data Sharing Across Agencies and Sectors  
Unified, Cross-Sector Measures of Program Quality

Improved ECE Cross-Sector Guidelines and Standards  
Enhanced Local Collaborations on School Readiness

Long-Term and Short-Term Data on the Needs of Young Children and the Capacity of Texas ECE Programs  
Parent and Child-Focused ECE System  
Increased Access to High Quality Programs Among Underrepresented Families

Cross-Sector ECE Professional Development System  
Improved Recruitment and Retention of Highly Effective ECE Professionals  
Professional Development and Education Pathways for all ECE Professionals

### Priority Areas

Data and Quality Rating & Improvement (QRIS) Systems

Collaborations and Standards

Parental Outreach and Communications

Workforce and Professional Development

### Strategies

Develop Recommendations for an Integrated ECE Information Exchange System

Develop Recommendations for a Statewide Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)

Research and Implement a Web-Based, Cross-Sector Standards Comparison Tool for All Stakeholders

Develop and Implement Voluntary Infant and Toddler Early Learning Guidelines

Create a Professional Mentoring and Coaching Strategies Toolkit

Pilot a Program for Quality Improvement in Home-Based Child Care in English and Spanish

Conduct a Comprehensive, Statewide ECE Needs Assessment

Texas Community Campaign for School Readiness (Local ECE Needs Assessments and Planning)

Implement a Statewide Community Outreach and Public Relations Campaign for School Readiness

Develop an ECE Professional Development System and an ECE Workforce Registry System

New Core Competencies with Trainings for All ECE Professionals  
Career Ladder for All ECE Professionals  
Compensation Study of All ECE Professionals

Evaluate the Capacity and the Effectiveness of Higher Education to Meet the Needs of the ECE Workforce

Support Scholarship and Financial Aid Opportunities for Texas ECE Professionals through T.E.A.C.H.® Texas

Assess and Develop Model Higher Education Articulation Agreements

### Outcomes

Data-Driven Decisions for Policymakers, Providers, and Parents

Improved Cross-Sector Quality, Standards, and Collaborations

Identify Critical State and Local Needs and Engage in Targeted Outreach

Highly Qualified and Prepared Workforce

### Goal

# Improved School Readiness