



T E X A S  
EARLY LEARNING  
C O U N C I L

**Shifting the Curve:  
*Building a Stronger Future  
for Texas' Children***



# Texas Early Learning Council

The Texas Early Learning Council will lead the development of a parent and child-focused, high quality, integrated early childhood education system.



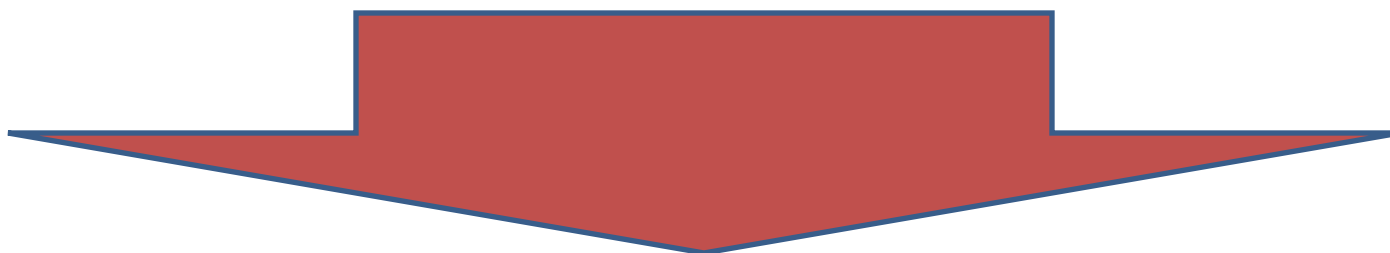
# Texas Early Learning Council

Data  
and  
Quality  
Rating  
Improvement  
Systems

Collaborations  
and  
Standards

Parental  
Outreach  
and  
Communication

Workforce  
and  
Professional  
Development

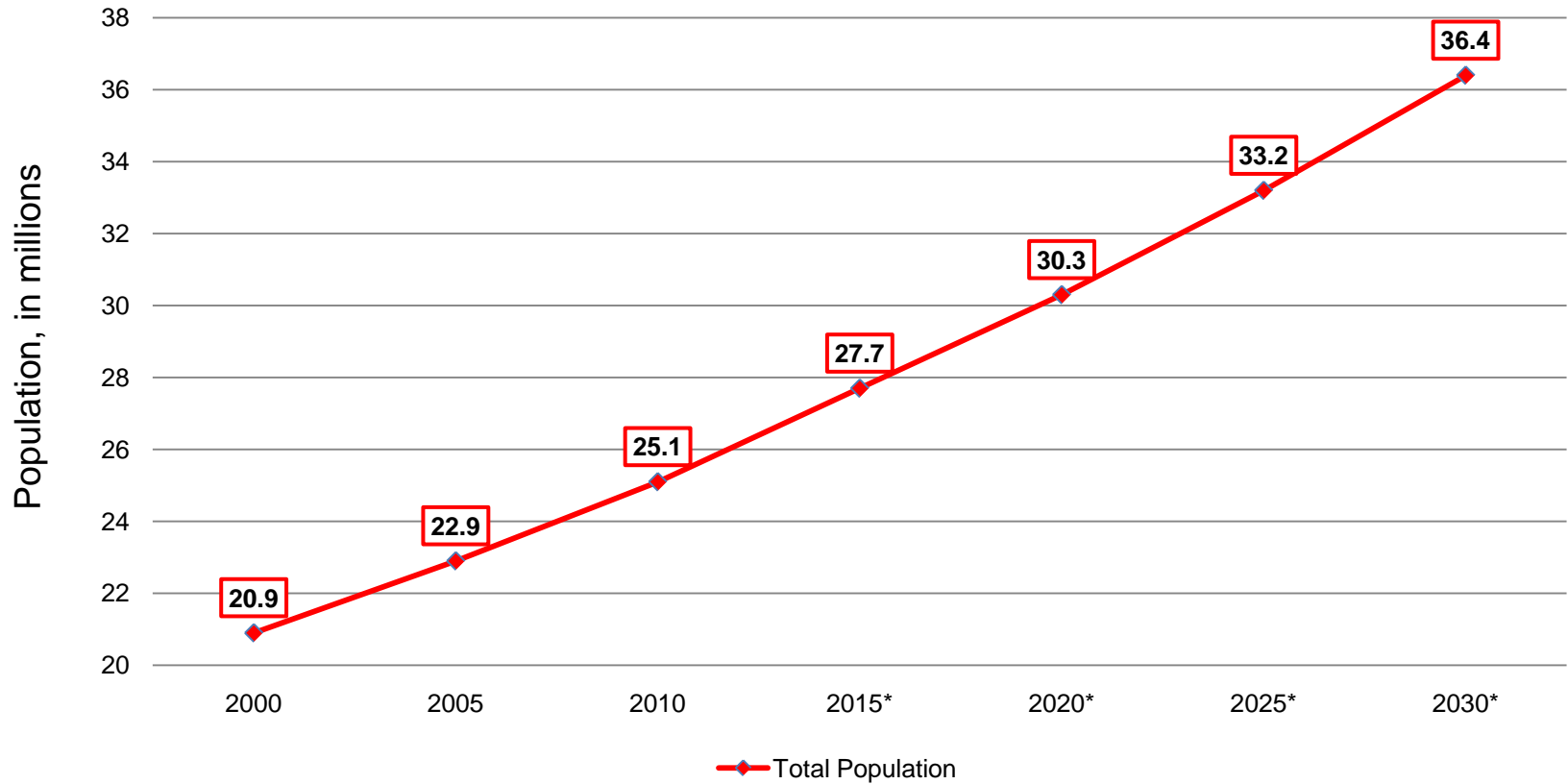


**Improved  
School Readiness**



# Population projections

## Texas Total Projected Population Average of Projection Scenarios



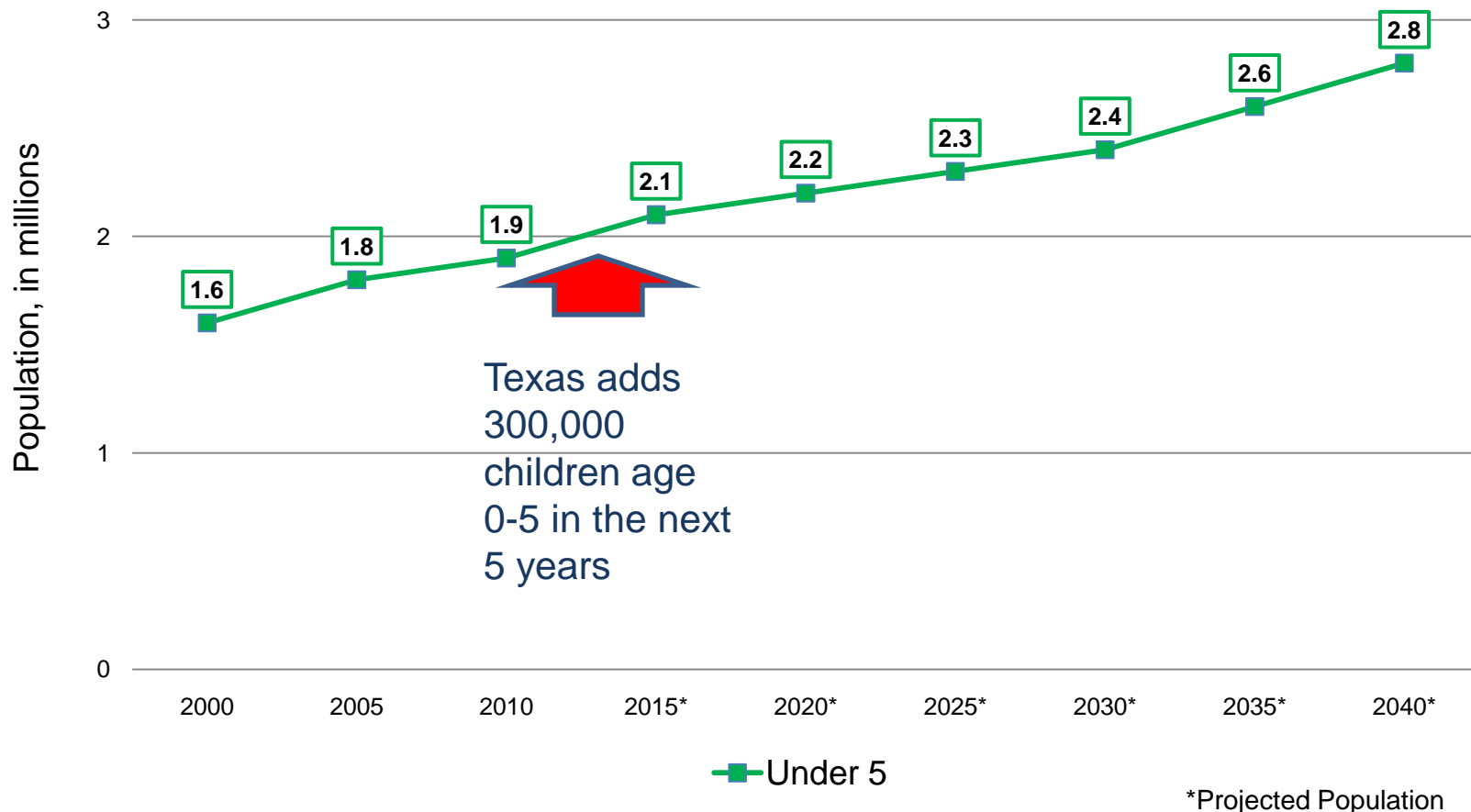
\*Projected Population

Source: Texas State Data Center, 2006



# Population projections

## Texas Projected Population Children Under 5

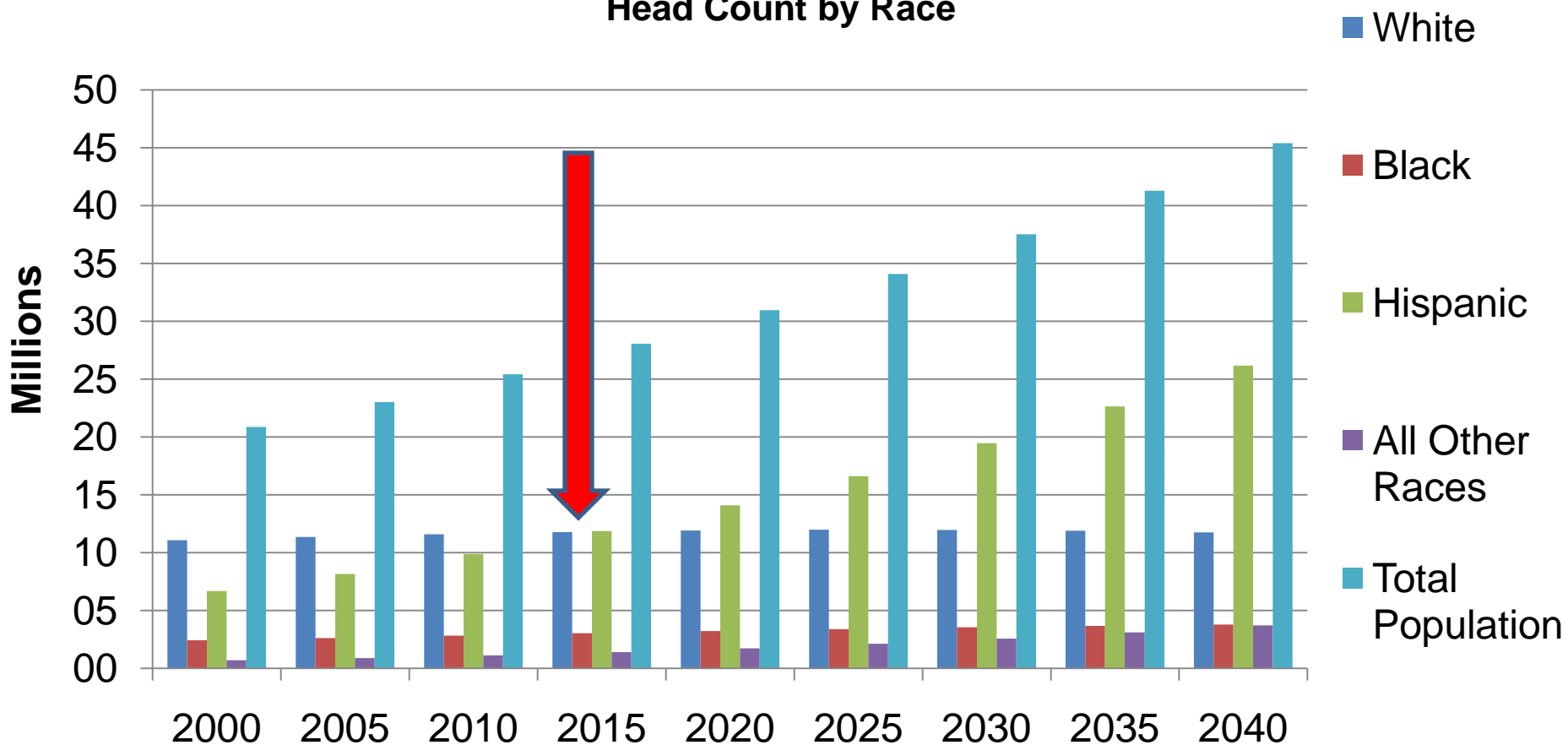


Source: Texas State Data Center, 2005



# Demographic projections

## Texas Demographic Projection Head Count by Race

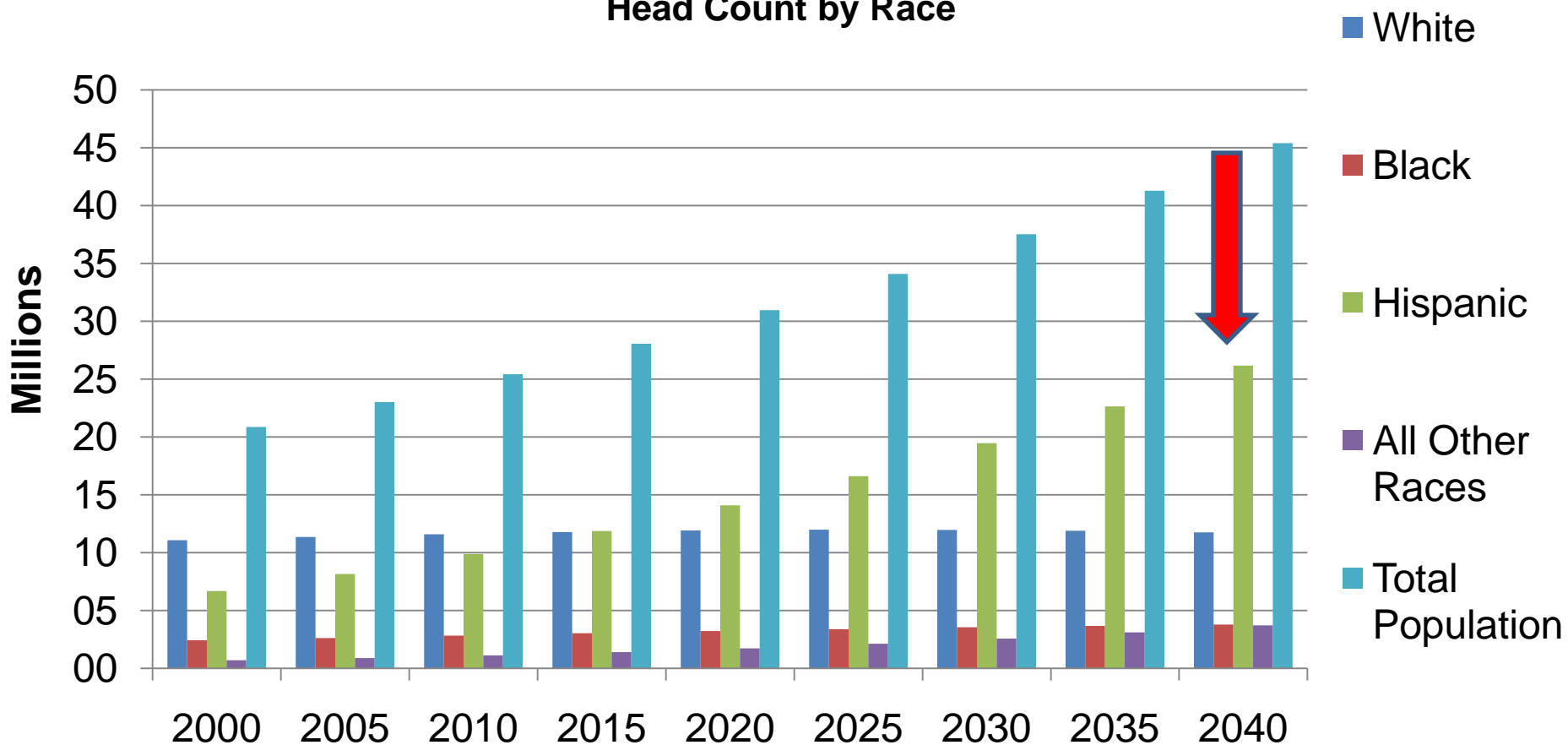


Source: Texas State Data Center, 2005



# Demographic projections

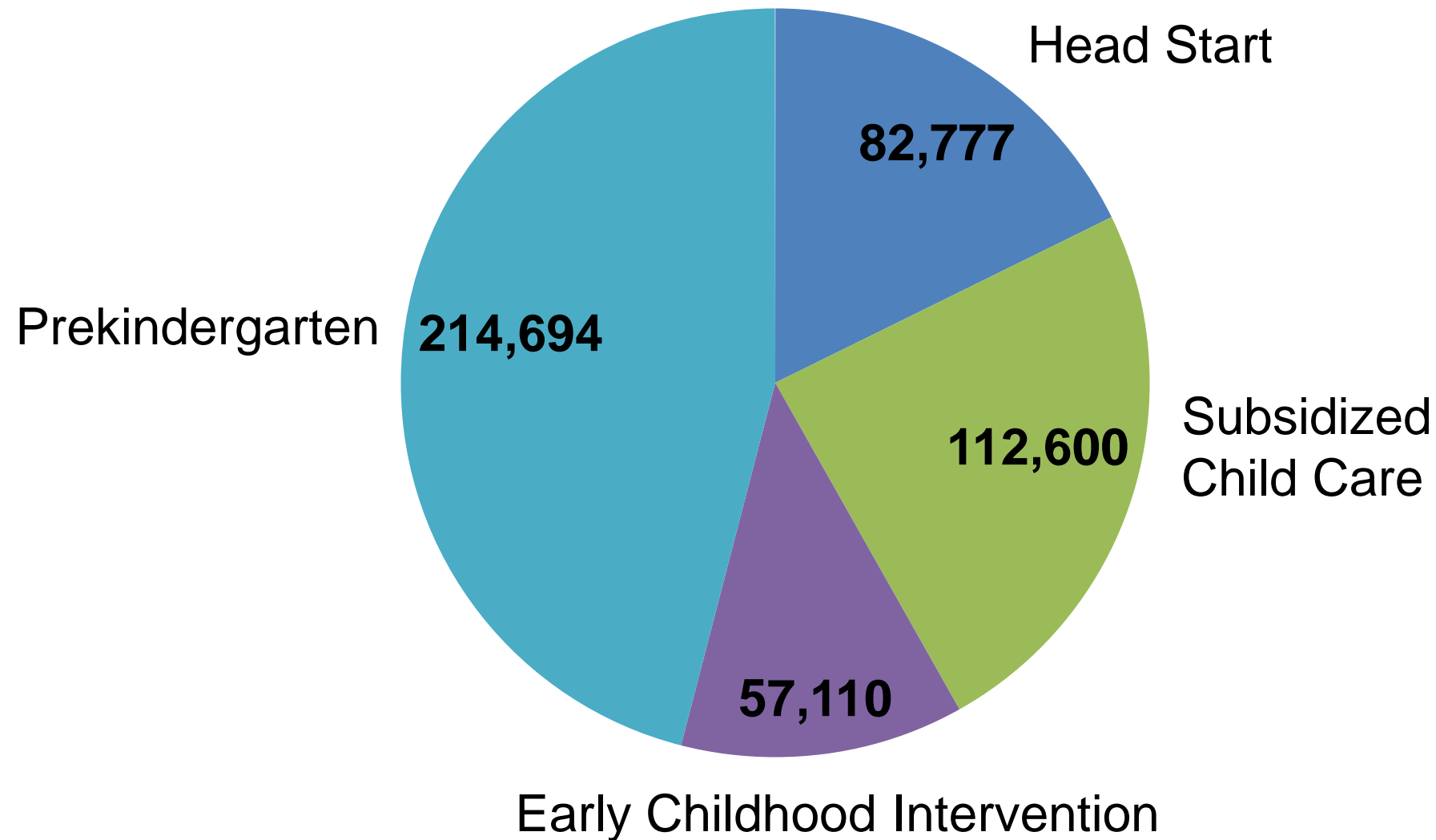
## Texas Demographic Projection Head Count by Race



Source: Texas State Data Center, 2005



# Texas ECE enrollment







# Are we ready?

- Texas population is increasing
- Texas demographics are changing
- More children will need early care and education
- Are we ready to meet Texas' ECE needs in the future?

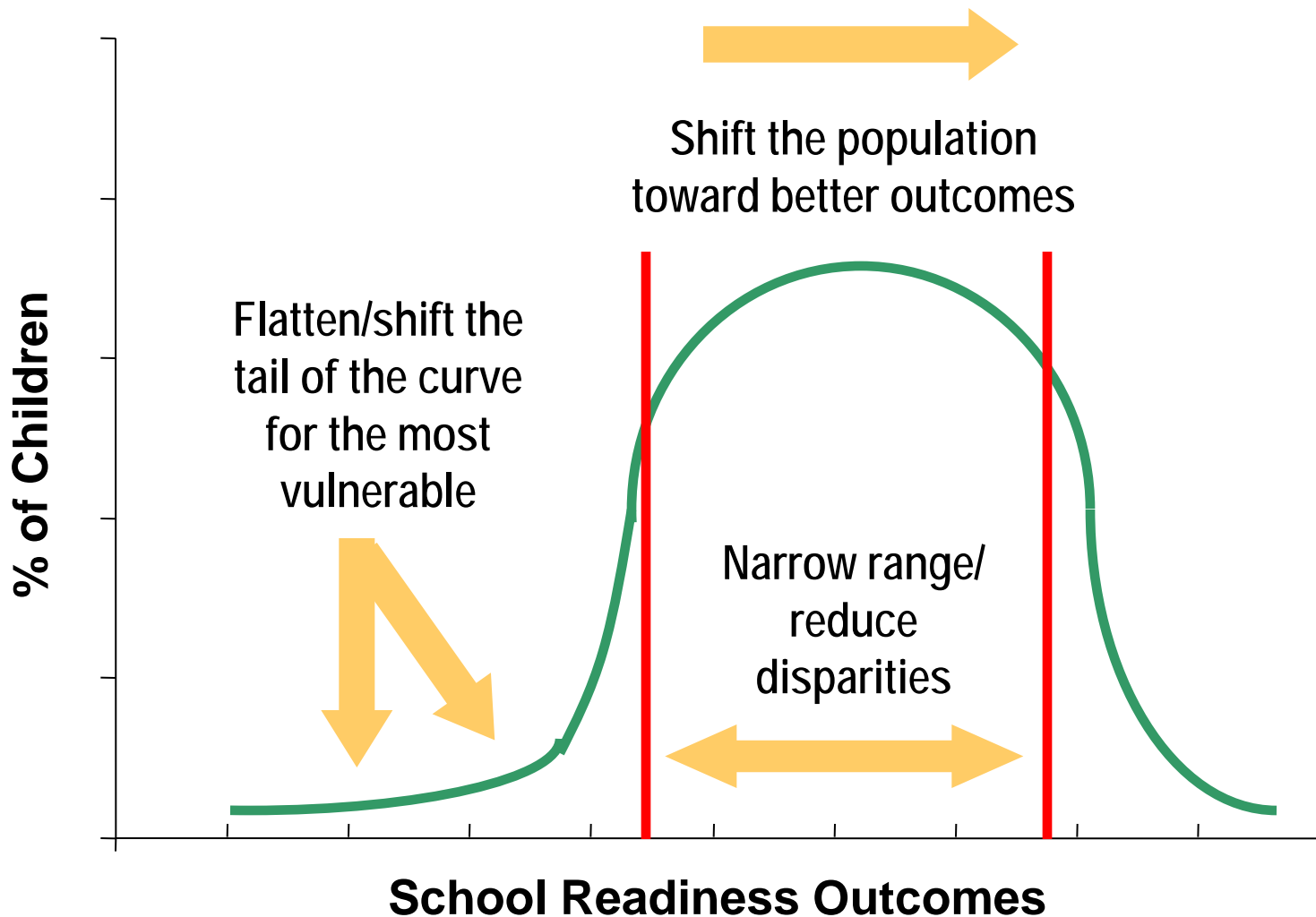


## Question 1

What are the top 3 infrastructure needs in your ECE area of practice?



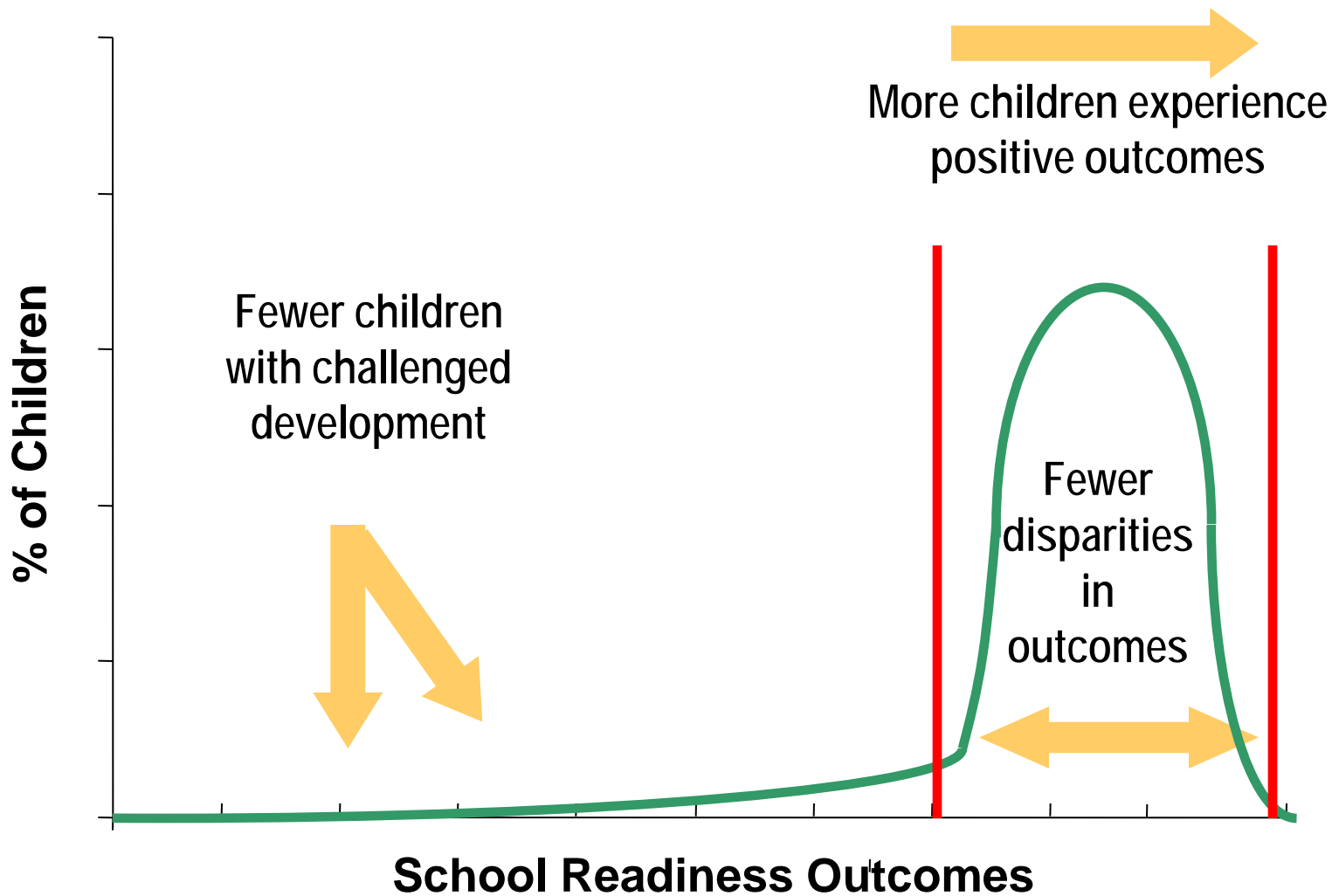
# Shifting the curve



Source: Halfon, N. *Using the EDI for Transforming Community Systems*



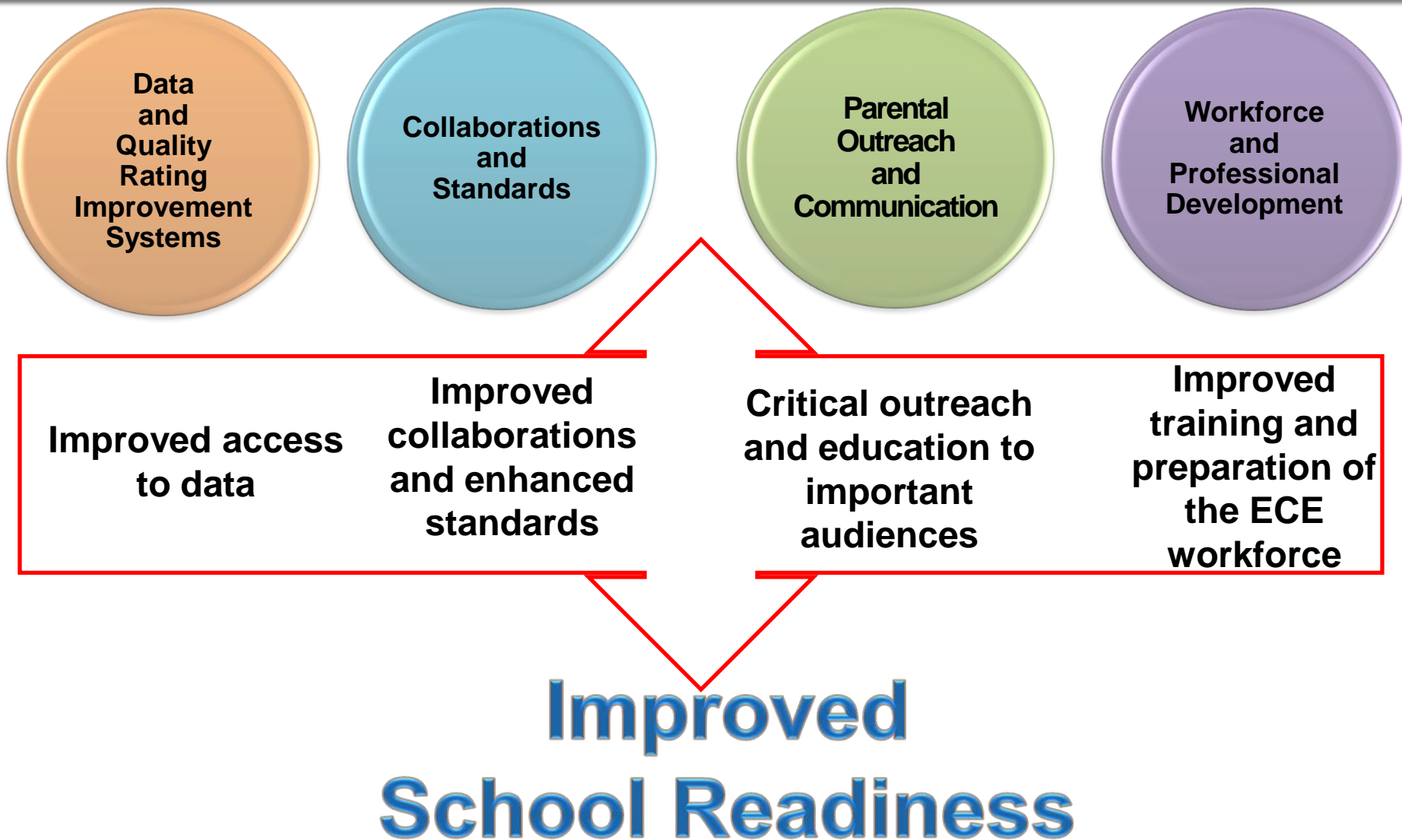
# Shifting the curve



Source: Halfon, N. *Using the EDI for Transforming Community Systems*



# How do we move the curve?





# Improved access to data

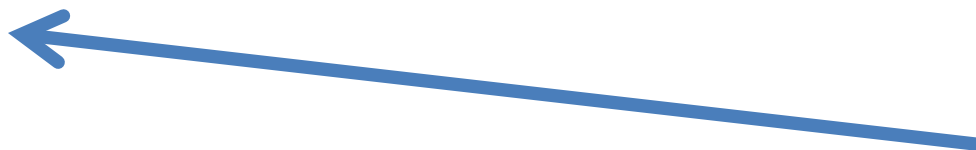
## ECE DATA

TEA

TWC

Head  
Start

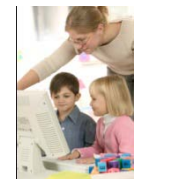
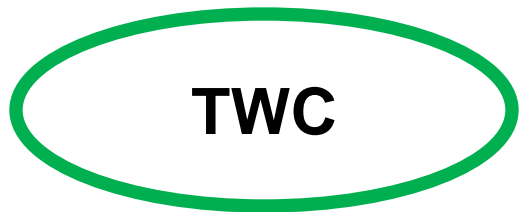
DFPS





# Improved access to data

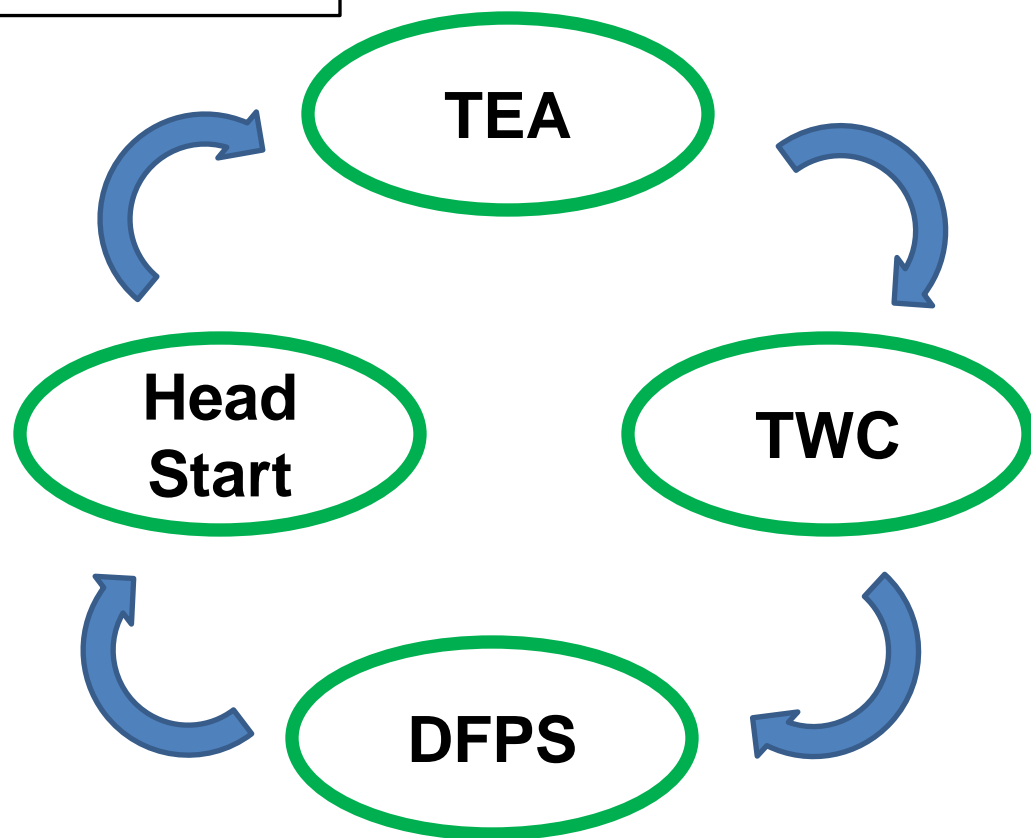
**ECE DATA**





# Improved access to data

**ECE DATA**







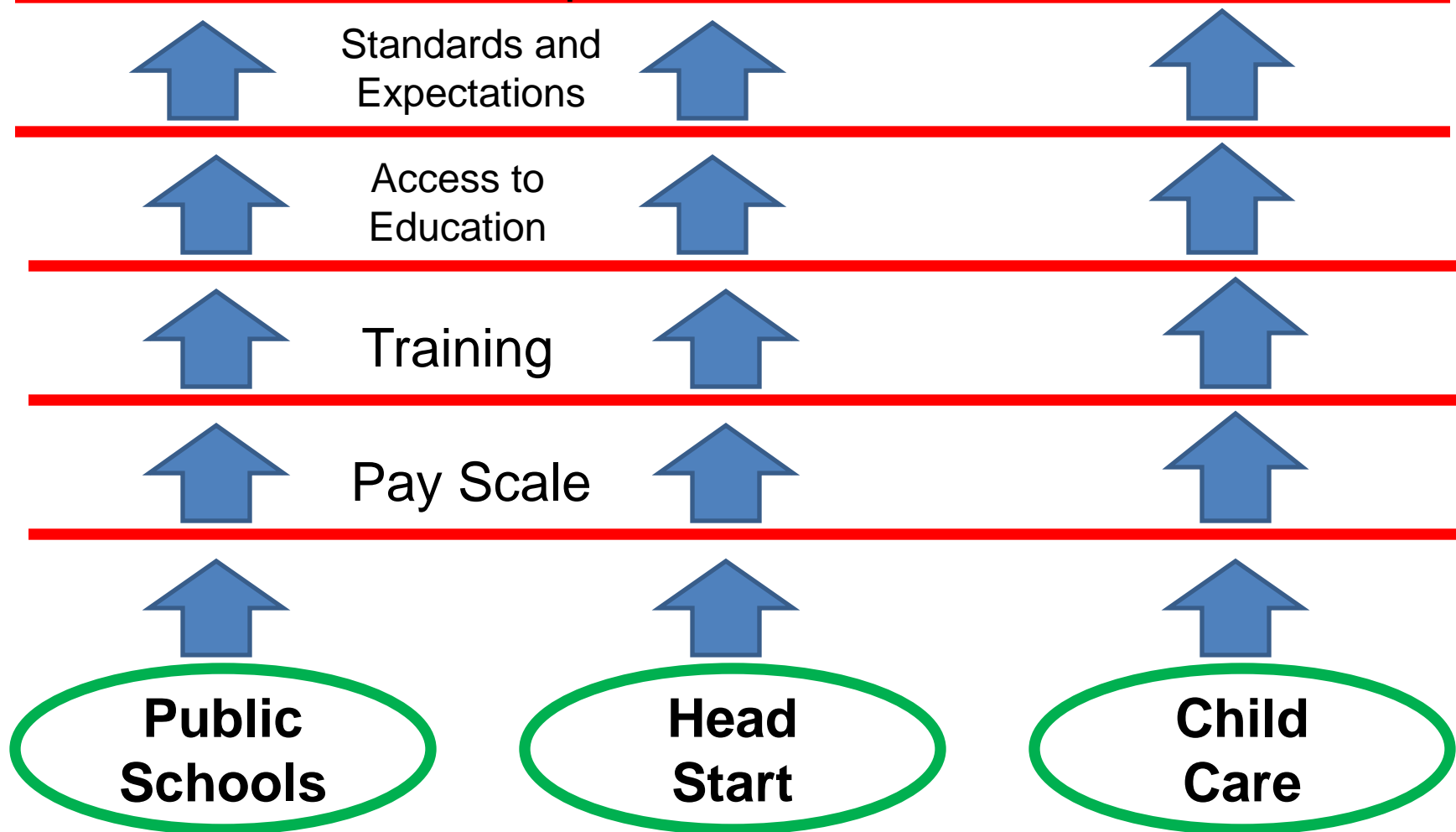
## Question 2

What type of data would most help you improve outcomes for young children?



# Improved training and preparation of the ECE workforce

## Career Development





## Question 3

What is the greatest  
ECE workforce  
challenge in Texas?



# Improved collaborations and enhanced standards





# Critical outreach and education to important audiences

1. First, find out what we need to know about Texas ECE, long-term and short-term
2. Second, support select communities in assessing their needs
3. Engage in strategic, targeted outreach to parents, providers, and policymakers



## Question 4

In terms of optimizing the development of young children, what is the single most important area of knowledge for Texas parents?



T E X A S  
EARLY LEARNING  
C O U N C I L

# Shifting the Curve: *Strategies*



# Council members

Chairman: **John W. Gasko**

*Children's Learning Institute*

**Michael Berry**

*Office of the Governor*

**LaShonda Y. Brown**

*Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office*

**Mary G. Capello**

*Teaching and Mentoring Communities*

**Deborah H. Cody**

*Mount Pleasant Independent School District*

**Gina S. Day**

*Texas Education Agency*

**Ana de Hoyos O'Connor**

*San Antonio College*

**Blanca Estela Enriquez**

*Education Service Center – Region 19*

**Dorothy Goodman**

*University of Texas – University Charter School*

**Angela Hobbs-Lopez**

*Texas Department of State Health Services*

**Elsa Cardenas-Hagan**

*University of Houston*

**Reagan Miller**

*Texas Workforce Commission*

**Rhonda Paver**

*Stepping Stone School*

**Robert Ott**

*Killeen Independent School District*

**Sasha Rasco**

*Texas Department of Family and Protective Services*

**Elaine Shiver**

*Mental Health America of Texas*

**Kim Wedel,**

*Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services*

**John Whitcamp**

*Child Care Associates*

**Quincy White**

*City of Lubbock*





# How we are doing it?

Committee chair:  
Quincy White



Committee chair:  
Ana De Hoyos  
O'Connor



Committee chairs:  
John Gasko  
John Whitcamp



Committee chair:  
LaShonda Brown



# Strategies

Parental  
Outreach  
and  
Communication

Implement a Comprehensive,  
Statewide ECE Needs Assessment

Texas Community Campaign for  
School Readiness

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



# Strategies

Parental  
Outreach  
and  
Communication

## Implement a Comprehensive, Statewide ECE Needs Assessment

- Analyze the ECE needs of Texas now and 40 years into the future
- Uncover gaps in services and resources for Texas children
- We are partnering with the Ray Marshall Center at UT Austin and the Hobby Center for the Study of Texas at Rice University



# Strategies

Parental  
Outreach  
and  
Communication

## Texas Community Campaign for School Readiness

- Empower 6 hungry communities to implement EDI and to build local planning councils
- EDI is a tool that measures school readiness from a community level on five key domains:
  - Physical Health
  - Social Competence
  - Emotional Maturity
  - Language and Cognitive Skill Development
  - Communication Skills and General Knowledge
- Communities will develop local strategic plans in response to the data
- We are partnering with the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities



# Strategies

Parental  
Outreach  
and  
Communication

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

- Based on understanding derived from the Needs Assessment and the Texas Community Campaign for School Readiness and other efforts
- Implement targeted outreach and community knowledge building efforts aimed at improving outcomes for young children

### Help Parents Address:

- What resources are available?
- What is the quality of the resources?
- What can families do to reinforce healthy development in the home?



## Question 5

What are the three most important channels to reach parents with critical information related to child development and access to resources and services?



# Strategies

**Workforce  
and  
Professional  
Development**

## Develop an ECE PD and Workforce Registry System

New Core Competencies for All ECE Professionals

Career Ladder for All ECE Professionals

Compensation Study of All ECE Professionals

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

Assess and Develop Model Higher Education Articulation Agreements



# Strategies

Workforce  
and  
Professional  
Development

## Develop an ECE PD and Workforce Registry System

New Core Competencies for All ECE Professionals

Career Ladder for All ECE Professionals

Compensation Study of All ECE Professionals

- Builds upon the work of the Texas Early Care and Education Career Development System (TECECDS)
- Design and implement a web based registry for all types of ECE professionals
- Will encourage ongoing skill development and will allow professionals to easily monitor their professional development
- Will inform the staffing decisions made by administrators and the career development for all ECE professionals





# Strategies

Workforce  
and  
Professional  
Development

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

- Survey institutions of higher education to evaluate their ability to meet the demands of the Texas ECE workforce now and into the future
- Uncover gaps in preparedness



# Strategies

Workforce  
and  
Professional  
Development

## Assess and Develop Model Higher Education Articulation Agreements

- *Articulation agreements are formed between higher education institutions and other agencies that provide professional development. They support professional development by counting previous training and coursework toward higher levels of certification and degrees*
- Collect model higher education articulation agreements that support professionals in attaining higher and higher levels of education with limited redundancy
- Publish model articulation agreements and a manual to inform higher education institutions that want to improve their articulation agreements



## Question 6

What is the most significant barrier for ECE professionals in continuing to engage in ongoing, high-quality professional development?



# Strategies

Data  
and  
Quality  
Rating  
Improvement  
Systems

Develop and Implement an Integrated  
Early Childhood Information  
Exchange System

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



# Strategies

Data  
and  
Quality  
Rating  
Improvement  
Systems

## Develop and Implement an Integrated Early Childhood Information Exchange System

- Two phases to this work: Feasibility and Build
- Currently in the feasibility phases – trying to assess the willingness of agencies and the appropriateness of sharing and combining data sets
- Phase 2 involves building the system and designing the user interface



# Strategies



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

- QRIS systems do three things:
  - Communicates the quality of programs to the community- 1 star, 2 stars, 3 stars, 4 stars
  - Provides resources and technical assistance to programs seeking to improve quality
  - Provides a rational system for program funding and incentives
- We have started work on this:
  - Read our paper on QRIS at [www.earlylearningtexas.org](http://www.earlylearningtexas.org)
  - We will form a stakeholder group to vet recommendations and guide the work
  - Hope to have draft recommendations by summer of 2012



## Question 7

What problem or challenge is a QRIS most likely to solve?



# Strategies

Collaborations  
and  
Standards

Research and Implement a Web-Based,  
Cross-Sector Standards and Guidelines  
Crosswalk Tool

Develop and Implement Voluntary Infant  
and Toddler Early Learning Guidelines

Pilot a Program for Quality Improvement  
in Family-Based Child Care

Conduct a Professional Mentoring and  
Coaching Strategies Meta-Analysis





# Strategies

Collaborations  
and  
Standards

## Research and Implement a Web-Based, Cross-Sector Standards and Guidelines Crosswalk Tool

- A web based tool that will allow users to quickly compare program standards, regulations, accreditations, and certifications
- Will help consumers, advocates, and policymakers, but it will also help programs better understand how to collaborate with programs outside of their silos
- We have begun work on this tool and a draft should be ready by spring 2012



# Strategies

Collaborations  
and  
Standards

## Develop and Implement Voluntary Infant and Toddler Early Learning Guidelines

- Will answer the question: what should infants and toddlers know and be able to do at specific points in their development?
- Will serve as a resource to administrators, trainers, and others in developing approaches with this populations. It will also serve as a resource to parents in understanding early developmental milestones
- We will create a web based training module based on these guidelines, as well as other critical print resources
- Upon completion of the guidelines we will align them to the Pre-k Guidelines and K-12 standards
- We are working with ZERO-TO-THREE and a group of 25 Texas Stakeholders and infant specialist to create these



# Strategies

Collaborations  
and  
Standards

## Pilot a Program for Quality Improvement in Family-Based Child Care

- Approximately 50% of young children are cared for in home-based settings in Texas
- Researchers at Children's Learning Institute are heading up this exciting project
- This project will evaluate the effectiveness of mentoring strategies, as well as online professional development in improving the outcomes of children in family child care settings
- The project includes building a web based in-depth 20 – part professional development series specifically designed to meet the needs of this critical sector
- The study will begin this fall and last until 2013



# Strategies

Collaborations  
and  
Standards

## Conduct a Professional Mentoring and Coaching Strategies Meta-Analysis

- A meta-analysis systematically combines the results of several studies related to a topic, in order to yield credible research-based best practices
- This project should define what key strategies are the most effective in supporting ECE mentoring
- From the meta-analysis we will produce usable literature to inform the practice of mentors, coaches, and consultants



## Question 8

What is the single greatest barrier to collaboration in Texas?



# Questions?

Texas Early Learning Council  
6655 Travis Street, Suite 1000  
Houston, Texas 77030

[www.earlylearningtexas.org](http://www.earlylearningtexas.org)



[www.facebook.com/txearlylearning](http://www.facebook.com/txearlylearning)



@txearlylearning