

# Public Meeting

*August 2, 2024*



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Welcome!

Thank you for joining this meeting. We will begin shortly.

Members of the public are still able request to provide oral public comment today by emailing their request to [megan.schneider@tea.texas.gov](mailto:megan.schneider@tea.texas.gov). Please include your name (as it appears in Zoom), email, organization you are representing, and agenda topic being addressed.

# Agenda

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1. Call to Order
2. April 2024 Minutes Approval
3. Public Comment
4. Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan
5. Updates from TELC Members
6. Upcoming Early Childhood Events
7. Adjourn

# Public Comment

Earlylearningtexas.org has a section called Meetings. This houses all the meeting information for past and upcoming meetings as well as the agenda once it's released. Public agendas are posted a minimum of one week prior to the meeting date, along with instructions for submitting public comment.

- Please provide your name, organization, and the agenda topic you are commenting on for the record.
- Each speaker will be allotted three minutes to provide your public comment. When you hear a chime sound at the two-minute mark, this indicates that you will have one minute remaining to wrap up comments.
- Council members may ask questions after each speaker concludes.



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# Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan

2024 – 2026



# 2024-2026 Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan Goals

<b>Family Access, Navigation &amp; Engagement</b>	<b>Goal 1</b>	Families can easily meet their basic needs and access the early learning services, programs, and resources they need, and are meaningfully engaged to provide feedback on services.
<b>Workforce Recruitment, Retention &amp; Support</b>	<b>Goal 2</b>	The early learning workforce is well-paid, trained and supported; can reach and obtain the professional development resources they need throughout their careers; and is large enough to meet Texans' needs.
<b>Local Systems &amp; Partnership Building</b>	<b>Goal 3</b>	Local early learning systems are well-coordinated, appropriately resourced, and successfully support the children and families in their communities.
<b>Integrated Data &amp; System</b>	<b>Goal 4</b>	State early learning system entities are collaborating to make family- and data-informed decisions to improve services, programs and resources for children and their families.

# Family Navigation, Access & Engagement Strategies

**Strategy 1.1:** Streamline intake and administrative systems for parents and providers to make it easier for families to navigate early learning programs and services.

**Strategy 1.2:** Increase availability and supply of early learning programs and services.

**Strategy 1.3:** Increase access to early learning programs and services.

**Strategy 1.4:** Increase family feedback to improve the quality and accessibility of early learning services.

# Family Navigation, Access & Engagement: Progress

**Action 1.1.1:** TEA, THSSCO, and TWC will simplify application practices by launching a common eligibility screener on <https://earlychildhood.texas.gov/>

- Eligibility Screener work will start this quarter

# Workforce Recruitment, Retention & Support Strategies

**Strategy 2.1:** Increase financial support of the early learning workforce.

**Strategy 2.2:** Expand and refine early learning pathways to comprehensively include all professionals who work with young children.

**Strategy 2.3:** Expand the number of people entering the early learning workforce.

**Strategy 2.4:** Retain early learning workforce professionals in the field by providing educational and social support.



# Workforce Recruitment, Retention & Support Progress

**Action 2.1.2:** TWC will continue to fund scholarships and Registered Apprenticeships (RA) to cover the cost of CDA, associates, and bachelors' credentials or degrees.

- ✓ Registered Apprenticeship Program request for applications was published and is in selection phase
- ✓ Early Childhood Professional Development Scholarships grant has been awarded to TXAEYC

# Workforce Recruitment, Retention & Support Progress

**Action 2.4.2:** TWC will continue to offer child care business training and coaching and training about evidence-based staff retention strategies.

- ✓ Staff Retention Strategies request for applications was published and applications were due this week.

# Workforce Recruitment, Retention & Support Progress

**Action 2.4.6:** HHSC ECI will continue to develop and make available trainings on inclusion of children with special needs, including autism, and on managing challenging behavior in young children.

- So far in 2024, HHSC ECI programs have provided 53 trainings on inclusion
  - *Planning and Creating Inclusive Classrooms*
- New recorded webinar on autism
  - *Best Practices for Including Children with Autism*
  - Presented by an HHSC ECI training specialist and Licensed Behavior Analyst
- New training series on managing challenging behavior
  - *The Functions of Behavior*, the first webinar in the 3-part series is now available
- Public access to recorded webinars: [ECI Archived Webinars](#)



# Updates from TELC Members



# The Texas School Readiness Dashboard

**We envision a Texas in which all children arrive on the first day of kindergarten ready to succeed and thrive for years to come.**

# Why School Readiness?

## The Need

- Unfortunately, too few Texas children arrive at school with the strong early childhood foundation they need to succeed.
- To improve school readiness in Texas, a multi-domain, cross-system set of indicators can help policy and community leaders measure progress and drive policy.





## Our dashboard is intended to:

- serve as an easily accessible data resource
- inform state policy and funding decisions
- help state leaders and communities align priorities and measure progress
- focus greater attention on the needs of children and families in the early childhood years



TxReadyKids.org



## Our dashboard is not:

- an exhaustive list of what's important to the well-being of kids and families
- a tool to measure child development or progress at an individual level
- a measure of the efficacy of any particular intervention



# 5 Categories



**Sufficient Household Resources**



**Positive Family-Child Interactions**



**Good Health and Development**



**Enriching Early Learning Experiences**



**Texas Early Childhood Demographics**

# Impact of the Texas School Readiness Dashboard



TxReadyKids.org

# Changing the Conversation

FEATURED

## Texas nonprofit pushes for more resources for young Texans

Ali Linan CNHI Texas statehouse reporter Dec 1, 2022 Updated Dec 1, 2022

EDUCATION

## New Texas school readiness data shows child care, pre-K gaps. What are proposed solutions?

BY LINA RUIZ

APRIL 25, 2024 2:57 PM



EDUCATION

## Health, school readiness lagging for Texas children, advocacy group says

**Keri Heath**  
Austin American-Statesman

Published 9:00 a.m. CT Dec. 7, 2022



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## What Texas lawmakers can do to get kids ready for kindergarten

A new dashboard lays out challenges and 50 policy recommendations for legislators to consider.



# Beginnings of Legislator Buy-in

“

“There is no doubt that the Legislature has more work to do on child care, health care, nutrition, and the other policy areas that are critical to children’s lives, inside and outside the classroom. Children’s experiences during the first few years of life are the foundation for their futures. **The Dashboard confirms that we need a stronger commitment from state leaders to support children during those early years and beyond.**”



**Rep. Diego Bernal**  
*Chair of the Texas House Early  
Childhood Caucus*

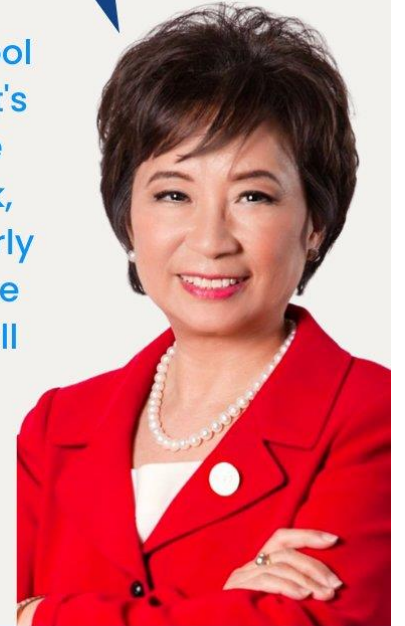


[TXreadykids.org](https://TXreadykids.org)

**"We need to ensure that during the first five years of life, every child has the experiences that support growing brains and bodies and provide the foundation for a strong future."**

"Early childhood education and school readiness is not just a family issue, it's an economic issue. The Legislature has taken important steps on pre-k, child care, health care, and other early childhood issues, and the data in the Dashboard is a reminder that we still have more work to do."

**— REP. ANGIE CHEN BUTTON**  
*Chair, House International Relations and  
Economic Development Committee  
Vice-Chair, Texas House Early Childhood Caucus*



 [TXREADYKIDS.ORG](https://TXREADYKIDS.ORG)

 [@TXREADYKIDS](https://twitter.com/TXREADYKIDS)



# Legislative Progress

The Dashboard includes **over 50 policy recommendations** to improve School Readiness in Texas.

Last session, the Legislature extended postpartum health coverage, took key efforts to reduce entry into foster care, reduced some barriers to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and more.




**Texas legislators made progress toward improving school readiness, but important work remains unfinished.**

[TXreadykids.org](https://TXreadykids.org)



[TxReadyKids.org](https://TxReadyKids.org)

# Supporting Local Initiatives Linked to the Dashboard's Goals



TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Posted: 8/04/23

## LAREDO LEARNS LAUNCHES NEW 'BRAIN BAG' INITIATIVE TO HELP NEW PARENTS MEET BENCHMARKS FOR KIDS



bookspring

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### Texas Ranks 50th in Family Reading: A Call to Action

[Home](#) > [Reading Tips](#) > Texas Ranks 50th in Family Reading: A Call to Action

■ [April 29, 2024](#)

Here at BookSpring, we're all about big dreams and even bigger hearts. But there's one statistic that hits close to home and demands our attention: **Texas ranks 50th in the nation for the percentage of children under age six whose families read to them every day.** In a state known for its pride and resilience, we're falling short where it matters most – in nurturing the minds and hearts of our youngest citizens.

#### Facing the Challenges: A Startling Reality

The latest data from the Texans Care for Children's [School Readiness Dashboard](#) paints a stark picture of the obstacles families across Texas face. Poverty, food insecurity, and limited access to quality early childhood education are all too common. With 1 in 3 Texas children under age 6 living in poverty and 1 in 10 households with young children experiencing...

DAILY READING

**75%** 

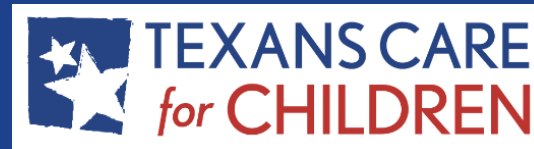


TxReadyKids.org



# Thank you!

**Chelsea Cornelius, PhD**  
**Director of Research and Evaluation**



# TWC Updates



- Family Child Care Networks
- Employer Child Care Solutions
- Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

# HHSC Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Request for Application (RFA)

- HHSC ECI plans to release RFA HHS0014626 in October 2024.
- HHSC has released the Procurement Forecast.
  - [Review the Procurement Forecast](#)
- Potential Applicant conference and formal Q&A will be held in November 2024.
- HHSC cannot address RFA questions outside of the formal process.
- Interested parties can [sign up to receive RFA information](#).



# Updates from TELC Members



# Upcoming Early Childhood Events

# Adjourn



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Thank you for your time! The meeting slides and recording will be posted at:

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

Next meeting:

October 18, 2024 from 11am to 1pm