

earlymatters

Early Matters is a statewide organization that brings together **business, civic, education, nonprofit and philanthropic leaders** dedicated to economic mobility and prosperity for all Texas families through strategic investments in both policies and practices that support children birth – age 8.

Together, we represent 42% of Texas children under the age of 8, with operations in 6 regions.

We believe that focusing on these critical early years supports the workforce of today AND builds the workforce of tomorrow.



2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Support Working Parents



Help parents get back to work with affordable child care

- Create a new “Employer Match” program with franchise tax credits to help businesses provide childcare benefits to their employees
- Improve cross-agency childcare data sharing to better understand opportunities by codifying an early childhood integrated data system (ECIDS)
- Increase the number child care seats aligned to local workforce needs through a competitive grant pilot

Quality Pre-kindergarten



Ensure 3 and 4-year-old children have access to and are engaged in quality PreK programs that prepare them for school success

- Create regional PreK Partnership Hubs as intermediaries between multiple LEAs and child care programs in order to streamline PreK partnerships
- Adjust Early Education Allotment so 3 and 4-year-old Pre-K students are generating TEA dollars

Strong Workforce



Support childcare workers and providers as small businesses providing critical infrastructure for working families

- Make childcare workers a priority group to receive childcare scholarships