

earlymatters

2025 Legislative Session Recap



During the 89th Texas legislative session, Early Matters worked with state policymakers, our regional coalitions, partner nonprofit organizations, and the Employers for Childcare (E4C) Task Force to advance better state policy for early care and education. Early Matters is proud to share a long list of wins for young children and working families in Texas.

ECE Workforce

***Childcare Workers Receive Priority Access to Childcare Scholarships**

SB 462 by Kolkhorst and Harris Davila shores up childcare capacity for all working families by giving childcare workers priority to access scholarships for their own children without waiting months on a waitlist.

Child Care

***Improving Texas' Childcare Data Systems**

HB 3963 by Capriglione and Paxton improves cross-agency data sharing about early childhood programs, allowing policymakers to prioritize ROI while safeguarding privacy and security and empower communities to make informed improvements.

***Governor Task Force on the Governance of Early Childhood Education and Care**

HB 117 by Schoolcraft and Campbell creates the Governor's Task Force on the Governance of Early Childhood Education and Care, to conduct a review of the existing state and federal systems that oversee and regulate birth - age 8 education.

Removing Burdensome Regulation for Home-Based Childcare

SB 599 by West preempts local regulations for state licensed and registered child care homes.

\$100M for Child Care Scholarships

The state's budget adds \$100 million to serve ~10,000 additional children through the childcare scholarship program.

Employers for Childcare Task Force (E4C)

Co-founded by Early Matters Texas, the Employers for Childcare Task Force (E4C) is a non-partisan group of business leaders working together to develop and advocate for public policy reforms to expand working families' access to affordable, quality childcare in Texas.

- **75+ businesses and individuals**
- **3 childcare op-eds** written by CEOs
- **20+ testimonies** given in support of childcare

PreK

***Improving Mixed Delivery Pre-Kindergarten**

HB 2 by Buckley and Creighton establishes PreK Hubs to assist school districts (ISDs) and private providers in establishing PreK Partnerships. ISDs will be required to pass through 85% of all state funds received to the providers.

Private Childcare Providers Included in Texas Educational Savings Accounts

SB 2 by Creighton and Buckley establishes Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs), which will allow families to use public funds for their children's education at accredited private schools, including private childcare providers serving children in prekindergarten or kindergarten.

Full-day funding for 4-year-olds in Public PreK

HB 2 redistributes Early Education Allotment funding in an amount equal to half average daily attendance (ADA) to fund all day PreK for 4-year-olds.

Early Elementary

*HB 2 is an extensive bill that includes the following highlights for early elementary: allocates \$8.5 billion to public schools; provides extra learning support for children as early as kindergarten, including the addition of dyslexia screeners before 3rd grade; makes ISD teachers eligible to access district PreK for their own children; and adds new restrictions to tuition-based PreK for children in public schools.

**Denotes priority bills for EMTX this session*

E4C Bills Passed

Employer Resource Hub

SB 1265 by Alvarado and Harris Davila creates a free website for employers to access information about available childcare resources, programs, and supports for their workforce. This will be especially beneficial for Texas' more than 3.3 million small businesses.

Quad Agency Childcare Initiative

HB 4903 by Harris Davila and Birdwell creates a Quad Agency Commission to reconcile conflicting and duplicative regulations and align initiatives between the four state agencies with significant oversight over childcare in Texas.

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Early Matters Texas' advocacy efforts are led by the EMTX Policy Committee, who advises and determines our legislative priorities. The committee, composed of representatives from each region who bring together expertise and insight from all across the state to ensure that our policy agenda supports the needs of our diverse state.

