Increasing Quality in Texas Prekindergarten Programs

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DIVISION

TAMALA OLSBY/CODY SUMMERVILLE

TEA
Texas Education Agency

Topics to be Addressed Today

➢ Importance of Foundational Years: Prekindergarten - 2nd

➢ Changing Landscape: High-Quality Prekindergarten Grant to Rider 78

➢ High-Quality Prekindergarten Components

➢ Resources to Support your High-Quality Work

The Foundational Years

➤ Definition of "Foundational Years"

➤ How are students in Texas doing?

➤ How are students in your region doing?

➤ What impact can a high-quality early childhood education make?
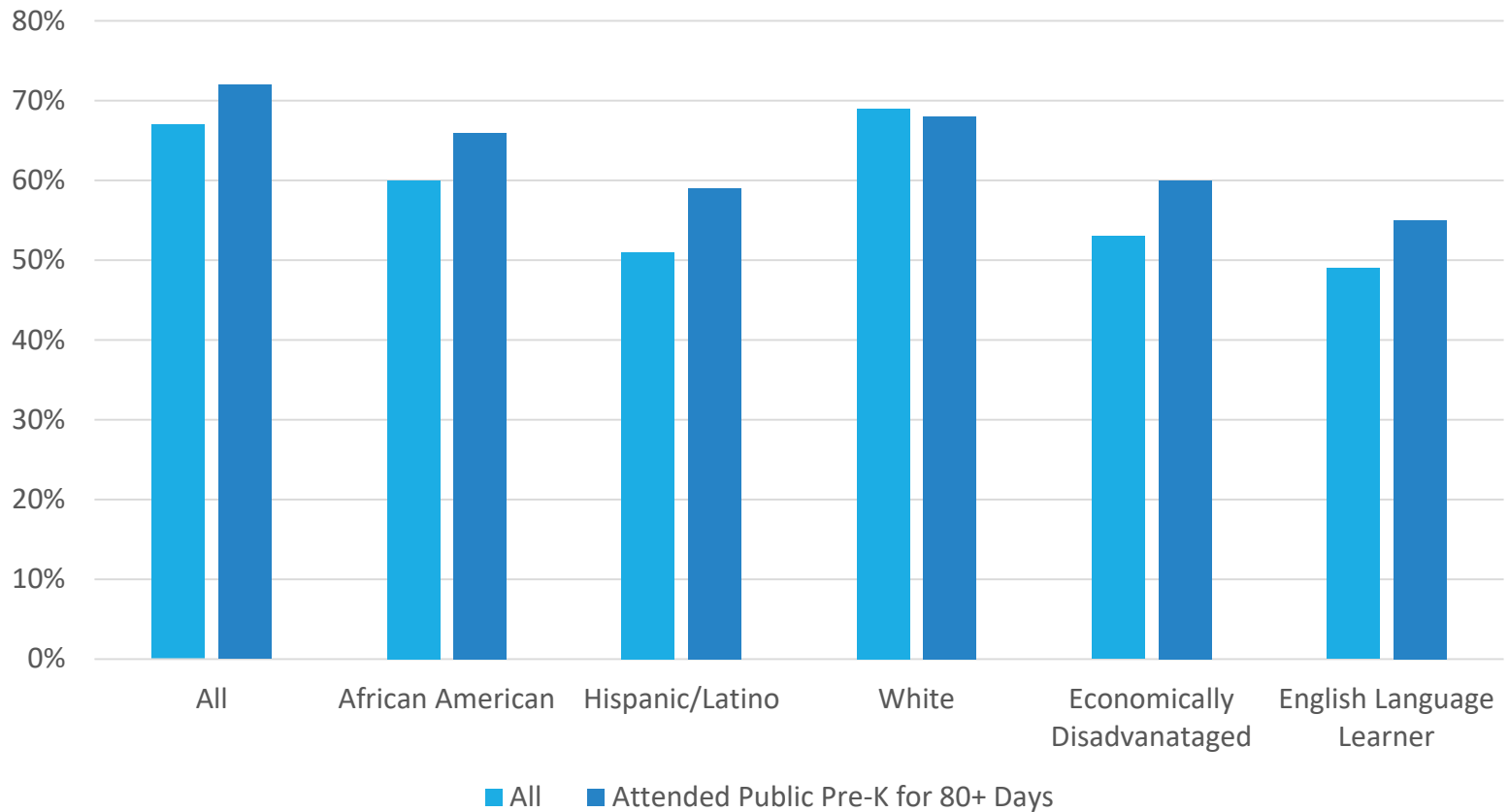
Definition of Foundational Years

Birth → 2nd Grade

How Many Students are Considered Kindergarten-Ready Your Region?

To view kindergarten readiness data for specific regions, please download the PowerPoint titled, *Kindergarten Readiness and 3rd Grade STAAR Performance Regional Data.*

How are 3rd Grade Students in Texas Doing?

Spring 2016 STAAR Results, Data Interaction for Texas Student Assessments
At or Above Standards
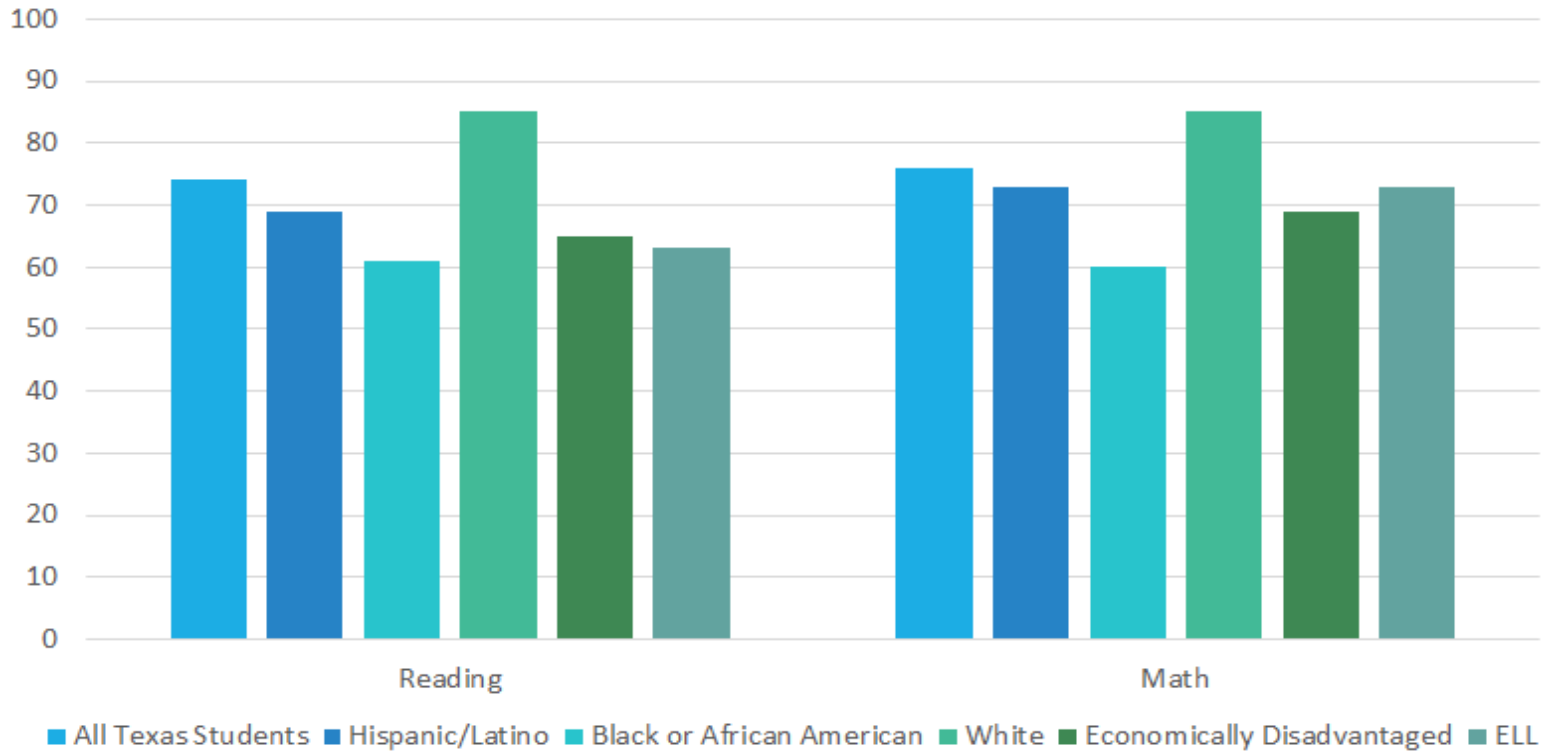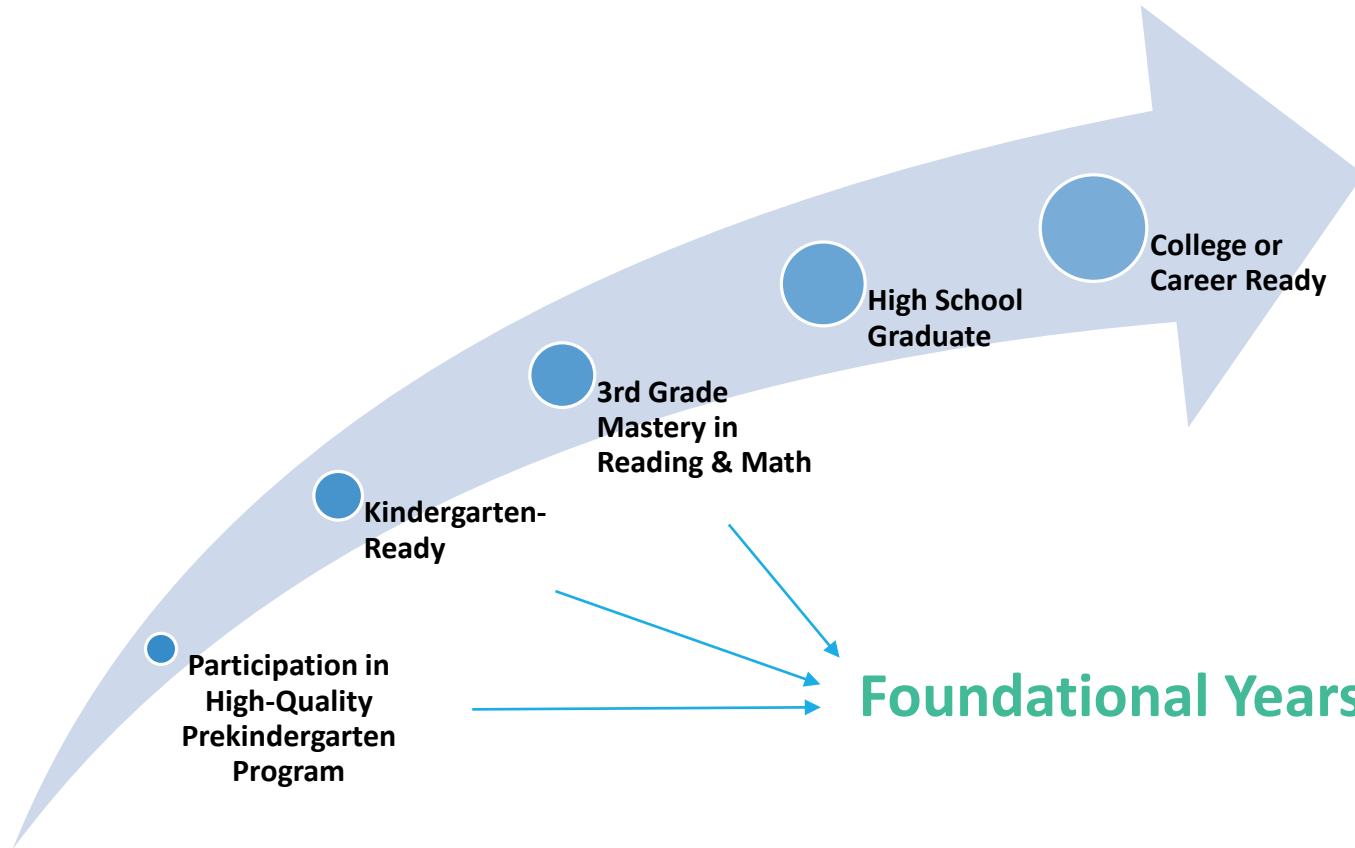
How are 3rd Grade Students Doing in Your Region?

To view 3rd Grade Reading and Math STAAR data for specific regions, please download the PowerPoint titled, *Kindergarten Readiness and 3rd Grade STAAR Performance Regional Data.*

Continuum

- Participation in High-Quality Prekindergarten Program
- Kindergarten-Ready
- 3rd Grade Mastery in Reading & Math
- High School Graduate
- College or Career Ready

Foundational Years

Emphasis on High-Quality

Children from low-income homes in particular benefit from preschool education in comparison with their peers from high-income homes. However, <u>the magnitude of the benefits depends on the quality of the program</u>: On average, due to the prevalence of low-quality preschool programs, preschool in the U.S. narrows the achievement gap by perhaps only 5% rather than the 30% to 50% that research suggests might be possible on a large scale if all preschool programs were of higher quality.

Pianta, Robert C., Barnett, W. Steven, Burchinal, Margaret and Thornburg, Kathy R. (2009). *The Effects of Preschool Education: What We Know, How Public Policy Is or Is Not Aligned With the Evidence Base and What We Know*. Psychological Science in the Public Interest, Vol. 10, Issue 2, pp. 49-88.

Changing Landscape: HQPG to Rider 78

- 84th Legislature

  - High-Quality Prekindergarten Grant (HQPG) passed and signed by Governor Abbott

  - 573 Districts/Charters participated

  - 118 million dollars was appropriated

- 85th Legislature

  - Funding not appropriated for continuation of HQPG

  - General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 78 passed and signed by Governor Abbott

Article III, Rider 78

FSP Formula Funding for High-Quality Prekindergarten Programs. Included in amounts appropriated above in Strategy A.1.1, FSP - Equalized Operations, is an estimated $1,580 million in the 2018-19 biennium for formula funding entitlement for pre kindergarten programs. Of this amount, the Commissioner shall ensure that school districts and charter schools receiving these funds shall use not less than 15 percent of their entitlement, an estimated $236 million statewide, to implement prekindergarten consistent with the requirements of a High-Quality Prekindergarten program, as established in Education Code, §§29.167 - 29.171, and consistent with the provisions of Education Code, Chapters 41 and 42.

What does it mean?

In simpler language:

The Commissioner is to ensure that at least 15% of prekindergarten FSP funds of each school district and charter school are used to implement high-quality prekindergarten components.

Does Rider 78 apply to your program?

Yes, if:

➤ You are a school district or charter school

➤ You serve 4-year-old children who are eligible for free prekindergarten

➤ You receive FSP funding from Texas to operate

What does the 15% refer to?

➤ Existing funding - not additional funding

➤ Foundation School Program (FSP)

   - Eligible for free prekindergarten

   - 4-year-olds

   - Average daily attendance

General Recommendations Regarding the 15%

In implementing the high-quality prekindergarten components referenced in Rider 78, districts/charters should:

➢ Implement the high-quality prekindergarten components (TEC 29.167 - 29.172)

➢ Plan ahead

➢ Develop a way to document the 15% expenditures

High-Quality Prekindergarten Components

- ➤ Curriculum

- ➤ Student progress monitoring

- ➤ Teacher qualifications and Professional development

- ➤ Teacher to Student Ratio

- ➤ Family engagement plan

- ➤ Program evaluation

- ➤ Data Reporting

Curriculum

↓

Positive Child Outcomes

High-Quality Component: Curriculum

In implementing the high-quality prekindergarten components referenced in Rider 78, school districts/charters should select and implement a curriculum that:

➢ Is aligned to the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines

➢ Recommendation: Use curriculum listed on the Currently Adopted Instructional Materials List

Currently Adopted Instructional Materials

- ➤ The Texas DLM Early Childhood Express

- ➤ Opening the World of Learning: Texas Comprehensive PreK

- ➤ Big Day for PreK Texas Program

- ➤ HighScope Preschool Curriculum and Assessment

- ➤ Frog Street PreK Texas System

- ➤ Teach Strategies System for Pre-K, Texas edition

15%: Curriculum

Implementing expenditures included in 15%:

➢ Costs associated with curriculum implementation, i.e. curricular kits/collections, games and teacher guides

➢ Curricular support materials/equipment, i.e. books, manipulatives and classroom furniture

➢ Supplemental curriculum

Key Questions to Ponder

➢ Where is your school district/charter school in regards to meeting the expectations of Rider 78 in regards to curriculum?

➢ What could be done in the area of curriculum to increase the quality of your prekindergarten program?

➢ What are your next steps?

Student Progress Monitoring

Positive Child Outcomes

High-Quality Component: Student Progress Monitoring (PK)

In implementing the high-quality prekindergarten components referenced in Rider 78, districts/charters should:

➢ Use a tool on *Commissioner's List of Approved Prekindergarten Assessment Instruments 2017-2021*

➢ Measure the five (5) primary domains of development
- Emergent Literacy – Reading
- Emergent Literacy – Writing
- Language and Communication
- Health and Wellness
- Mathematics

➢ Upload BOY and EOY data annually to PIEMS/ECDS. It is recommended that student progress monitoring is completed three (3) times a year - BOY, MOY and EOY

The Commissioner's List of Approved Prekindergarten Assessment Instruments

When evaluating student progress and learning to guide instuction and remediation, it is recommended that educators assess multiple domains of development including reading, writing, math, health-wellness and language-communication.

SPM Tool	Publisher	Cost Per Student (approx.)	Format	Administration	Feasibility of Use	Language		Content				
						Eng	Span	EL-R	EL-W	L&C	H&W	Math
CIRCLE	CLI	$0 for Texas public kindergarten	web-based	Direct & observation	high	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Liberty Source	$9.50	web-based		medium							
DIAL-4 ±	Pearson	$13.80	paper/pencil w/online platform	Direct & observation	medium	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Work Sampling System ±	Pearson	$5.79	paper/pencil w/online platform	Observation & artifacts	medium	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ready, Set, K!	E3 Alliance	$12.50	paper/pencil w/online platform	Direct, observation & artifacts	medium	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
GOLD	Teaching Strategies	$10.50	paper/pencil w/online platform	Direct, observation & artifacts	medium	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Frog Street Assessment	Frog Street Press	$11.00	web-based	Direct & observation	low	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Note: The assessment below this line assesses 5 domains of development, but does not assess in Spanish

SPM Tool	Publisher	Cost Per Student (approx.)	Format	Administration	Feasibility of Use	Eng	Span	EL-R	EL-W	L&C	H&W	Math
LAP-3	Kaplan Early Learning	$26 - $36	paper/pencil w/online platform	Direct & observation	low	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Note: The assessments below this line assess 2 or fewer domains of development.

SPM Tool	Publisher	Cost Per Student (approx.)	Format	Administration	Feasibility of Use	Eng	Span	EL-R	EL-W	L&C	H&W	Math
BASC-3 BESS ±	Pearson	$9.88	paper/pencil w/online platform	Observation	high	✓	✓*				✓	
ISIP - Early Reading ±	Istation	$5.95	web-based	Direct	medium	✓		✓		✓		

*Observation/survey only; parent report available in Spanish

±Developmentally aligned to an assessment on the Commissioner's List of Approved Kindergarten Assessment Instruments

High-Quality Component: Student Progress Monitoring (K)

In implementing the high-quality prekindergarten components referenced in Rider 78, districts/charters should:

➢ Use a tool on *Commissioner's List of Approved Kindergarten Assessment Instruments 2017-2021*

➢ Measure Emergent Literacy – Reading

➢ Recommendation: Use a multidimensional tool that measures:
- Emergent Literacy – Reading
- Emergent Literacy - Writing
- Language and Communication
- Health and Wellness
- Mathematics

The Commissioner's List of Approved Kindergarten Reading and Multidimensional Instruments

When evaluating student progress and learning, it is recommended that educators assess multiple domains of development including reading, writing, math, health-wellness and language-communication.

Assessment Tool	Publisher	Cost Per Student (approx.)	Format	Administration	PM	Feasibility of Use	Language		Content				
							Eng	Span	EL-R	EL-W	L&C	H&W	Math
TX-KEA	CLI @ UT Health	$0 for public kindergarten	web-based	Direct & observation		medium	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DIAL-4 ±	Pearson	$13.80	paper/pencil w/online platform	Direct & observation		medium	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Work Sampling System ±•	Pearson	$5.79	paper/pencil w/online platform	Observation & artifacts	✓	medium	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ready, Set, K!	E3 Alliance	$8.00	paper/pencil w/online platform	Direct, observation & artifacts		medium	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Note: Assessments below this line assess 3 or fewer domains of development and may not have a Spanish version.													
STAR Early Literacy •	Renaissance Learning	$7.45	web-based	Direct	✓	medium	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
aimswebPlus •	Pearson	$8.50	paper/pencil w/online platform	Direct	✓	medium	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
MAP for Primary Grades •	NWEA	$13.50	web-based	Direct	✓	medium	✓		✓		✓		✓
DIBELS Next •	Dynamic Measurment	$1.00	paper/pencil w/online platform	Direct	✓	high	✓		✓				
TPRI • (pair w/ Tejas LEE)	CLI @ UT Health OR Liberty Source	CLI: $0 for public kindergarten; Liberty Source: $6	web-based OR paper/pencil w/online platform	Direct	✓	high	✓		✓				
Tejas LEE • (pair w/ TPRI)								✓	✓				
LION for Reading•	Liberty Source	$5.00	web-based	Direct	✓	medium	✓		✓		✓		
ISIP - Early Reading ± •	Istation	$5.95	web-based	Direct	✓	medium	✓		✓		✓		
Note: Assessments below this line only assess Health and Wellness and must be combined with a literacy assessment of reading to meet statutory requirements.													
BASC-3 BESS±•	Pearson	$9.88	paper/pencil w/online platform	Observation	✓	high	✓	✓*				✓	
DESSA-mini •	Aperture Education	$3.00	paper/pencil w/online platform	Observation	✓	high	✓	✓*				✓	

* *Observation/survey only; parent report available in Spanish*

± *Developmentally aligned to an assessment on the Commissioner's List of Approved Prekindergarten Progress Monitoring Assessments*

• *Developmentally aligned through third grade.*

15%: Student Progress Monitoring

Implementing expenditures included in 15%:

➤ Costs associated with implementing student progress monitoring, i.e. tool charges per student and printing costs

➤ Substitute costs to allow teachers to conduct student progress monitoring

➤ Technology tools/equipment to conduct student progress monitoring

Key Questions to Ponder

➢ Where is your school district/charter school in regards to meeting the expectations of Rider 78 in regards to student progress monitoring?

➢ What could be done in the area of student progress monitoring to increase the quality of your prekindergarten program?

➢ What are your next steps?

Teacher Qualifications

↓

Positive Child Outcomes

Summary of Teacher Qualifications

Options	Appropriately certified to teach early childhood	Additional Qualification
Option #1	Yes	Has a Child Development Associate Credential (CDA)
Option #2	Yes	Has a Montessori certification
Option #3	Yes	Has taught for at least 8 years in a nationally accredited child care program
Option #4	Yes	Has a degree in ECE, Special Education–ECE or a non-ECE degree with 15 units of ECE-specific coursework
Option #5	Yes	Completion of TSR – Comprehensive Program
Option #6	Yes	Has completed 150 hours of professional development in ECE-specific topics; 75 of the 150 hours being in a mentoring/coaching relationship
Option #7	Yes	Completes 30 hours of ECE-specific professional development annually with 15 of the 30 hours being in a mentoring/coaching relationship until 150 hours are documented

15%: Teacher Qualifications and PD

Implementing expenditures included in 15%:

➢ Costs associated with achieving or maintaining an "additional qualification," i.e. costs associated with getting a CDA, etc.

➢ Costs associated with any early childhood education-specific professional development done for prekindergarten teachers and/or paraprofessionals

➢ Costs associated with implementing prekindergarten mentoring/coaching as part of the district's/charter's prekindergarten professional development activities, i.e. training of prekindergarten mentors/coaches and salaries of prekindergarten mentors/coaches

Key Questions to Ponder

➤ Where is your school district/charter school in regards to meeting the expectations of Rider 78 in regards to teacher qualifications?

➤ What could be done in the area of teacher qualifications to increase the quality of your prekindergarten program?

➤ What are your next steps?

Teacher to Child Ratio
↓
Positive Child Outcomes

High-Quality Component: Teacher to Student Ratio

In implementing the high-quality prekindergarten components referenced in Rider 78, districts/charters should:

➢ attempt to maintain an average ratio in any prekindergarten program class of not less than one certified teacher or teacher's aide for each 11 students.

15%: Teacher-to-Student Ratio

Implementing expenditures included in 15%:

➢ The portion of all prekindergarten paraprofessional salaries that are paid for by FSP funding for eligible 4-year-olds

Please note: Pre-existing prekindergarten teachers' salaries should not be counted as part of the 15% referenced in Rider 78.

Key Questions to Ponder

➢ Where is your school district/charter school in regards to meeting the expectations of Rider 78 in regards to teacher to student ratio?

➢ What could be done in the area of teacher to student ratio to increase the quality of your prekindergarten program?

➢ What are your next steps?

Family Engagement

Positive Child Outcomes

Family Engagement Plan

Develop Family Engagement Plan

Implement Family Engagement Plan

Availability of a Family Engagement Plan

Achieve and maintain high levels of family involvement

Achieve and maintain positive family attitudes toward education

Six Components of a Family Engagement Plan

- ➤ Facilitate a family-to-family support
- ➤ Establish a network of community resources
- ➤ Increase family participation in decision-making
- ➤ Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning
- ➤ Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks
- ➤ Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement

15%: Family Engagement

Implementing expenditures included in 15%:

➢ Costs associated with prekindergarten family engagement activities, i.e. meeting costs, speaker costs and printing costs

➢ Family engagement personnel salaries (prekindergarten family engagement should be sole job responsibility)

Key Questions to Ponder

➢ Where is your school district/charter school in regards to meeting the expectations of Rider 78 in regards to family engagement?

➢ What could be done in the area of family engagement to increase the quality of your prekindergarten program?

➢ What are your next steps?

Program Evaluation

$\downarrow$

Positive Child Outcomes

High-Quality Component: Program Evaluation

In implementing the high-quality prekindergarten components referenced in Rider 78, a school district shall:

➢ select and implement appropriate methods for evaluating the district's prekindergarten program classes by measuring student progress; and

➢ make data from the results of program evaluations available to parents

15%: Program Evaluation

Implementing expenditures included in 15%:

➢ Costs associated with conducting a program evaluation, i.e. meeting costs and printing costs

➢ Costs associated with a 3rd party evaluator

➢ Costs associated with informing parents of the results of the program evaluation, i.e. meeting costs and printing costs

Key Questions to Ponder

➤ Where is your school district/charter school in regards to meeting the expectations of Rider 78 in regards to program evaluation?

➤ What could be done in the area of program evaluation to increase the quality of your prekindergarten program?

➤ What are your next steps?

Data Reporting

↓

Positive Child Outcomes

High Quality Component: Data Reporting

In implementing the high-quality prekindergarten components referenced in Rider 78, districts/charters should upload the following data in PEIMS/ECDS:

- ➤ Demographic data
- ➤ Enrollment in half-day and/or full-day prekindergarten
- ➤ Sources of funding for prekindergarten classrooms
- ➤ Class size
- ➤ Instructional staff-to-student ratio
- ➤ Type of curriculum
- ➤ Student progress monitoring tool and results
- ➤ Kindergarten readiness data
- ➤ Teacher qualifications
- ➤ Family Engagement Plan

15%: Data Reporting

There are no recommended expenditures associated with data reporting.

Key Questions to Ponder

➤ Where is your school district/charter school in regards to meeting the expectations of Rider 78 in regards to data reporting?

➤ What could be done in the area of data reporting to increase the quality of your prekindergarten program?

➤ What are your next steps?

Resources to Support
Your High-Quality Efforts

TEA

Webinars:

- ➢ ECE Updates
- ➢ Student Progress Monitoring
- ➢ Teacher Qualifications
- ➢ Mentoring/Coaching
- ➢ Writing a Family Engagement Plan
- ➢ Guiding Principles for Quality Family Engagement
- ➢ Enrollment
- ➢ Data Reporting
- ➢ Program Evaluation

FAQ document

Phone/Email Support

https://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Early_Childhood_Education/Educator_Resources/

Regional Education Service Centers

Early Childhood Specialists within each ESC to

➢ Provide professional development, workshops, technical assistance, coaching/mentoring as well as provide additional resources

➢ Common PD: Prekindergarten Guidelines, Classroom Management, Conscious Discipline, Inclusion, Family Engagement, Curriculum Alignment, Using Data, etc.

Children's Learning Institute

https://cliengage.org/static/

Suite of web-based tools and resources

- Student progress monitoring (CIRCLE)

- Teacher professional development

- Classroom observation tools

- Coaching and collaboration tools

- CIRCLE Activity Collection

- Texas KEA (Kindergarten Entry Assessment)

Four Key Takeaways

➢ Importance of Foundational Years: Prekindergarten – 2nd

➢ Changing Landscape: High-Quality Prekindergarten Grant to Rider 78

➢ High-Quality Prekindergarten Components

➢ Resources to Support your High-Quality Work

TEA - Early Childhood Education Division

Jacquie Porter, *Director*
jacquie.porter@tea.texas.gov

Sylina Valdez, *Manager*
sylina.valdez@tea.texas.gov

Scott Bodnar, *Manager*
scott.bodnar@tea.texas.gov

Howard Morrison, *Statewide Coordinator*
howard.morrison@tea.texas.gov

Tamala Olsby, *Program Specialist: Quality*
tamala.olsby@tea.texas.gov

Miguel Gomez, *Program Specialist: Access*
miguel.gomez@tea.texas.gov

Anna Gu, *Program Specialist: PreK Partnerships*
anna.gu@tea.texas.gov

Cody Summerville, *Program Specialist*
cody.summerville@tea.texas.gov