

Regional Pre-K Partnership Coordination

Expanding Prekindergarten Options for Working Families

History

Since the passage of HB 3 in 2019, public schools have been encouraged to expand prekindergarten options by entering into Pre-K Partnerships with local, high-quality child care programs. Pre-K Partnerships create more options for working parents who rely on full-day child care, save taxpayers money by reducing the need for school bonds, and create a stable business model for community-based child care programs, ultimately keeping child care costs down. Unfortunately, bureaucratic hurdles have made Pre-K Partnerships logistically difficult. **As of 2024, Pre-K Partnerships make up only 2% of the state's pre-k enrollment, despite nearly 60% of parents saying they would prefer their child to attend pre-k in a community-based program.**

Regional Pre-K Partnership Coordinating Entities

Texas can promote the expansion of Pre-K Partnerships by establishing Regional Pre-K Partnership Coordinating Entities. Coordinating Entities serve as intermediary hubs between Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and child care programs to reduce bureaucratic barriers, streamline the creation, maximize funding and support the quality of Pre-K Partnerships across an entire region.

LEAs may elect to enter into partnerships directly with their regional coordinating entity, which then subcontracts pre-k services to child care programs and facilitates the co-enrollment of pre-k eligible students in the LEA.

By partnering with the coordinating entity, LEAs:

- Generate additional per-child funding tied to the Basic Allotment for each child co-enrolled in the Pre-K Partnership.
- Become eligible to co-enroll students from participating child care programs within the boundaries of non-participating districts.
- Grant the regional coordinating entity autonomy over the operating model, academic model and learning approach, staffing, budget and funding structure of the partnership.

Regional Coordinating Entities provide essential backbone functions, ongoing technical assistance, and quality supports to ensure the delivery of high-quality pre-k in partnering child care sites, including:

- Recruitment and onboarding of eligible child care programs.
- Partnership contract negotiation and co-enrollment of students between participating LEAs and child care programs.
- Instructional coaching via a supervising instructor (authorized by HB 2729, 88R);
- Oversight of accountability and data-reporting.
- Coordination of shared services for special student populations.
- Fiscal management including billing, blending of public funding, and application for additional public and private resources.

Governance

Regional Coordinating Entities will be designated through a competitive selection process administered by the Texas Education Agency. Eligible entities include institutions of higher education, non-profits, governmental entities, and regional education service centers. Hubs will operate within Education Service Center boundaries and adhere to performance agreements approved by the agency.

Funding

Grants: Regional Coordinating Entities require two-year start-up grants of \$400K in year one and \$250K in year two to support their initial planning, development, and expansion.

District Incentive Funding: Participation in Regional Coordinating Entities enables LEAs to generate full-day ADA funding for each co-enrolled child. This funding ensures that the ongoing administrative costs accrued by the LEAs, coordinating entities, and child care programs are adequately supported. Additional per-student funding is capped at:

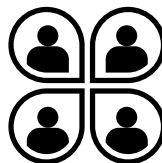
- 4,000 co-enrolled students statewide in SY 25-26 & SY 27-28.
- 6,000 co-enrolled students statewide in SY 28-29 & SY 29-30.
- 10,000 co-enrolled students statewide in all subsequent years.

School Districts



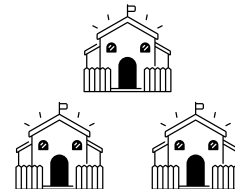
Retain 2% of student funding

Regional Coordinating Entity



Retains 25% of student funding

Child Care Programs



Receive a minimum 73% student funding



Spotlight: PreK Today

Operated by Child Care Associates in Tarrant County, **PreK Today** is a coordinating entity that partners with Fort Worth ISD and the ResponsiveEd charter network to implement pre-k services in community-based child care. Housed within an existing child care organization, PreK Today creates an economy of scale to provide additional resources and supports to both partnering districts and child care programs. As of 2025, PreK Today supports approximately 59 Pre-K Partnership classrooms across 35 sites. In SY23-24, PreK Today represented 10% of all Pre-K Partnership enrollment across the state.

