

Public Meeting

August 6, 2026



T E X A S
EARLY LEARNING
C O U N C I L

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 TELC@twc.texas.gov. Please include your name (as it appears in Zoom), email, organization you are representing, and agenda topic being addressed.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. April 2026 Minutes Approval
3. Approve Updated Standard Operating Procedure Edits
4. Public Comment
5. Family Voice Highlights
6. Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan Updates
7. Updated Child Care Desert Data Presentation, Children at Risk
8. Updates from TELC Members
9. Upcoming Early Childhood Events
10. Adjourn

Approve the Updated Standard Operating Procedure Edits

- Updates to the standard operating procedures to allow for a virtual registration process.
- Subsequent changes to the website to reflect these changes.

Public Comment

Providing 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.



Family Voice Highlights

Catherine Carlton
Chair, Early Childhood Intervention Advisory Committee



Scotty, 17

Catherine Carlton

- Mom of Scotty, Jeffrey and Jenna
- Chief of Staff at My Health My Resources of Tarrant County
- Chair of ECI Advisory Committee

Hi, My Name is Scotty

About me

- Lives in Arlington
- Attends abbreviated 8th [grade](#)

I love

- Music
- Swinging
- My bed
- Being tickled (when I'm in the mood)
- My siblings' tantrums
- Swimming

I need help with

- Pretty much everything

My diagnoses

- Lissencephaly, "smooth brain"
- Epilepsy
- Cortical blindness
- Acid reflux
- Aspiration
- Hip [dysplasia](#)
- And more....



Team Scott

- My mom, dad, brother (15) and sister (12)
- My grandparents, 2 who live part-time nearby
- My private duty nurses
- My home therapists (PT and OT), who come to the house twice a week
- My teachers and school therapists (music therapy, PT, OT, SP)
- My pediatrician in Arlington who I see several times a year
- My gastroenterologist in Fort Worth who I see 2-3 times per year
- My neurologists in Fort Worth and Dallas who I see 2-4 times per year
- My urologist, endocrinologist and eye doctor who I see annually
- My home health company that delivers feeding supplies and diapers monthly
- My Walgreens pharmacy for 10 daily prescriptions and 8 as-needed meds
- My orthotics team for my wrist and leg braces who I see 2-3 times per year
- My DME company that helps with wheelchair, bath chair, feeding chair and seizure-safe bed
- My mobility expert who helps with regular adjustments for my wheelchair
- And more....



T E X A S
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Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan

2024 – 2026



2024-2026 Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan Goals

Family Access, Navigation & Engagement	Goal 1	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.
Workforce Recruitment, Retention & Support	Goal 2	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.
Local Systems & Partnership Building	Goal 3	Local early learning systems are well-coordinated, appropriately resourced, and successfully support the children and families in their communities.
Integrated Data & System Coordination	Goal 4	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.

Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan

Action Item Update

Across the four goals, the plan has 64 actions.

This is our progress to date:

Action Item Progress	Number
Completed	16
In Progress	26
Ongoing	18
Not Started	0
Blocked	4



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Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan Action Item 1.2.6

2024 – 2026

**Family
Access,
Navigation
&
Engagement**

**Goal
1**

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.

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

Action 1.2.6: TELC and Early Childhood Interagency Workgroup (ECIW) will share data, trends and resources regarding current early learning services supply and the increased demand.

Path Forward:

While waiting for implementation of ECIDS, the ECIW proposes that ECIW and TELC members compile a comprehensive list of data sources currently available from each agency or entity regarding early childhood programming. This list will be housed on the TELC website.

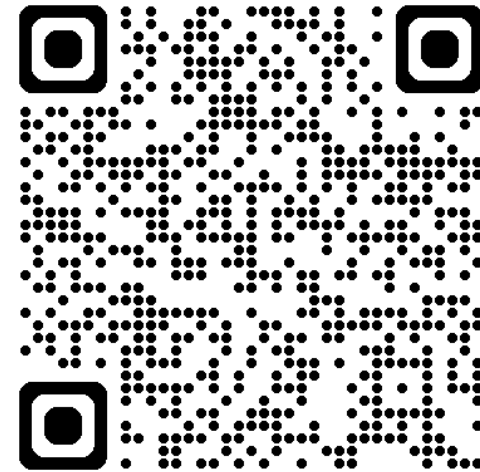
State Data Sets

Member feedback on state data sets to publish to TELC website.

Updated Texas Preschool Development Grant Birth Through 5 Needs Assessment

The updated needs assessment is located under #6 on the Texas Preschool Development Grant Birth Through 5 webpage.

<https://www.twc.texas.gov/programs/child-care/texas-preschool-development-grant>



A child is riding a green tricycle on a paved surface. The child is wearing a yellow shirt with smiley faces and dark pants. The tricycle has large green wheels and a white handlebar. The background is a blurred asphalt road.

The State of Early Childhood Education in Texas

August 2026 Early Learning Council

children
atRisk



Child Care Deserts Data

children**atRisk**

Mission Statement

CHILDREN AT RISK serves as a catalyst for change to improve the quality of life for children through



Strategic
Research



Public Policy
Analysis



Education



Collaboration



Advocacy

What is a Desert?



Child Care Deserts

Zip codes (US Census ZCTAs) with at least 30 children (ages 0-5) where the demand for child care is three times greater or more than the supply of child care.



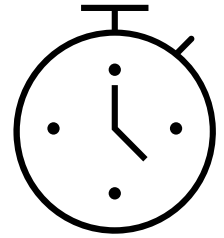
Subsidized Child Care Deserts

Zip codes with at least 30 low-income children (ages 0-5) where the demand for subsidized child care is three times greater or more than the supply of subsidized child care.



TRS Rising Star Deserts

Zip codes with at least 30 low-income children (ages 0-5) where the demand for subsidized child care is three times greater or more than the supply of Texas Rising Star-certified child care.



Chronic Child Care Deserts

Zip codes with at least 30 low-income children (ages 0-5) where the demand for subsidized child care is three times greater or more than the supply of care for that category for **three consecutive years**.

Child Care Deserts | Overall

Texas Overall Child Care Deserts

994,949 ↑

Total Number of Seats

413 ↓

Overall Desert Zip
Codes*

**Out of 1,999 total zip codes in Texas*

Child Care Deserts | Subsidy

Texas Subsidy Child Care Deserts

148,675 ↑

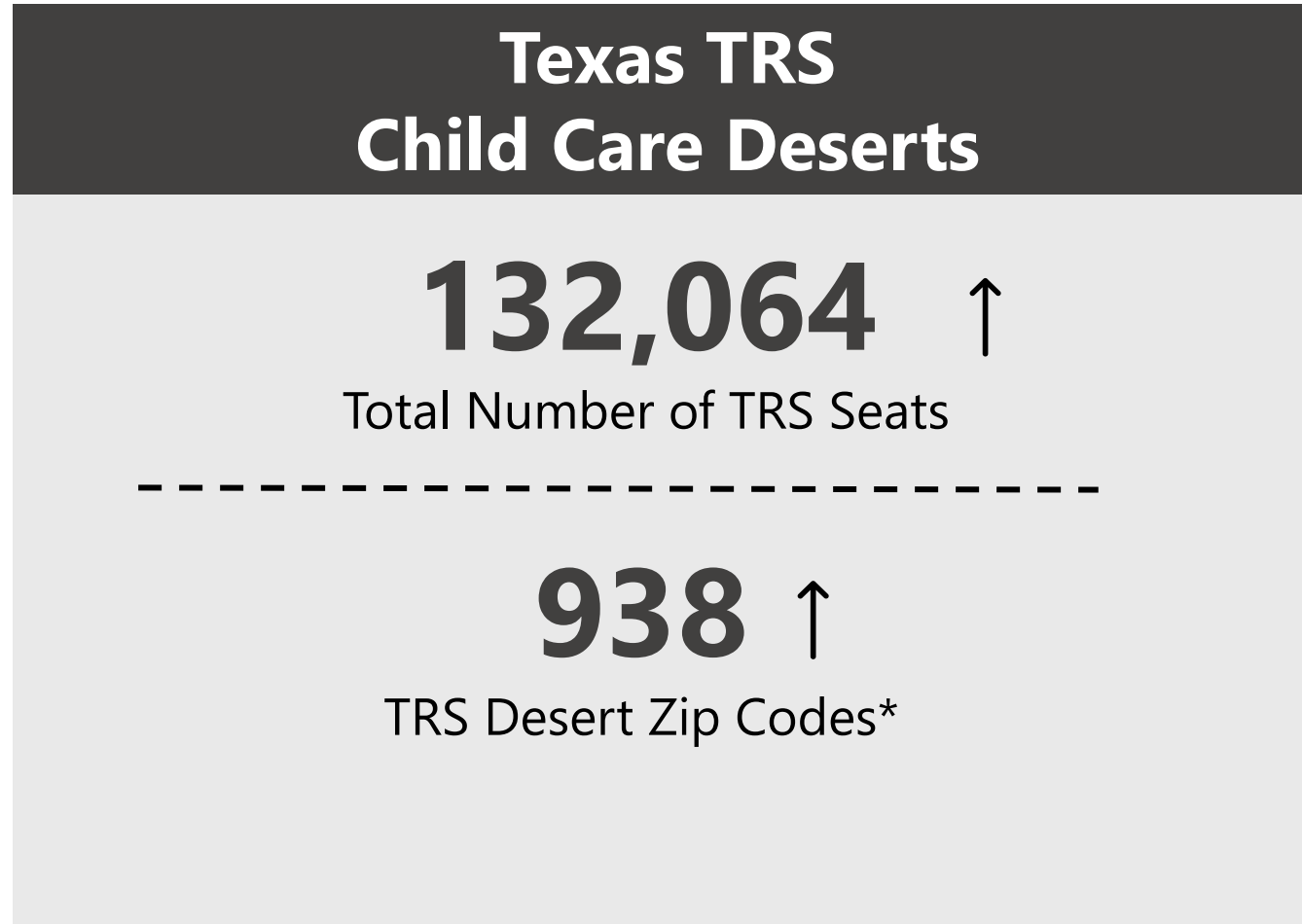
Total Number of Subsidy Seats

884 ↑

Subsidy Desert Zip Codes*

**Out of 1,999 total zip codes in Texas*

Child Care Deserts | Texas Rising Star (TRS)



**Out of 1,999 total zip codes in Texas*

Chronic Child Care Deserts | Statewide

Chronic Overall Child Care Deserts (2023- 2025)

64%

Of Overall Deserts
Considered Chronic

263

Chronic Overall Desert Zip
Codes

Chronic Subsidy Child Care Deserts (2023-2025)

63%

Of Subsidy Deserts
Considered Chronic

558

Chronic Subsidy Desert
Zip Codes

Chronic TRS Child Care Deserts (2023-2025)

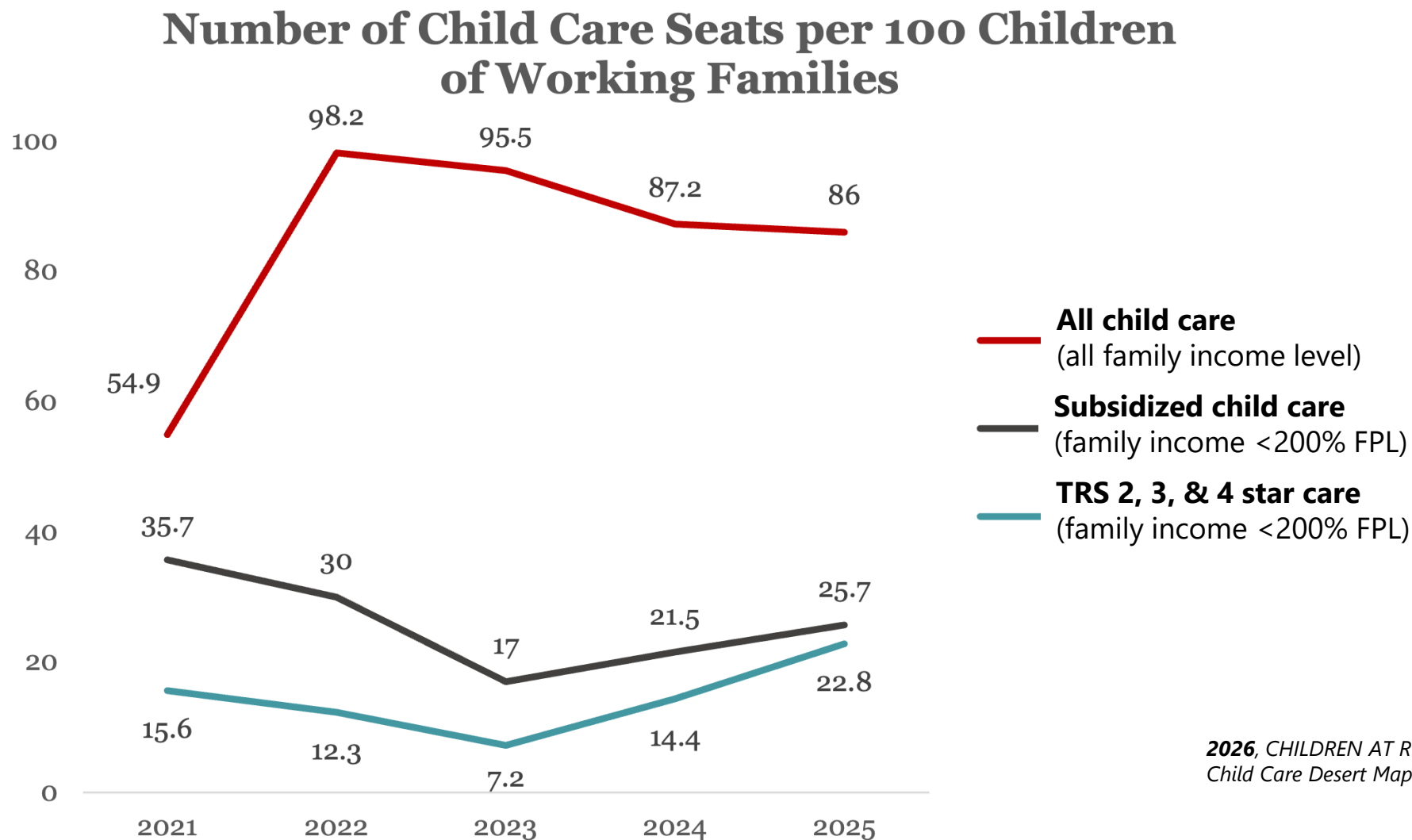
68%

Of TRS Deserts
Considered Chronic

635

Chronic TRS Desert Zip
Codes

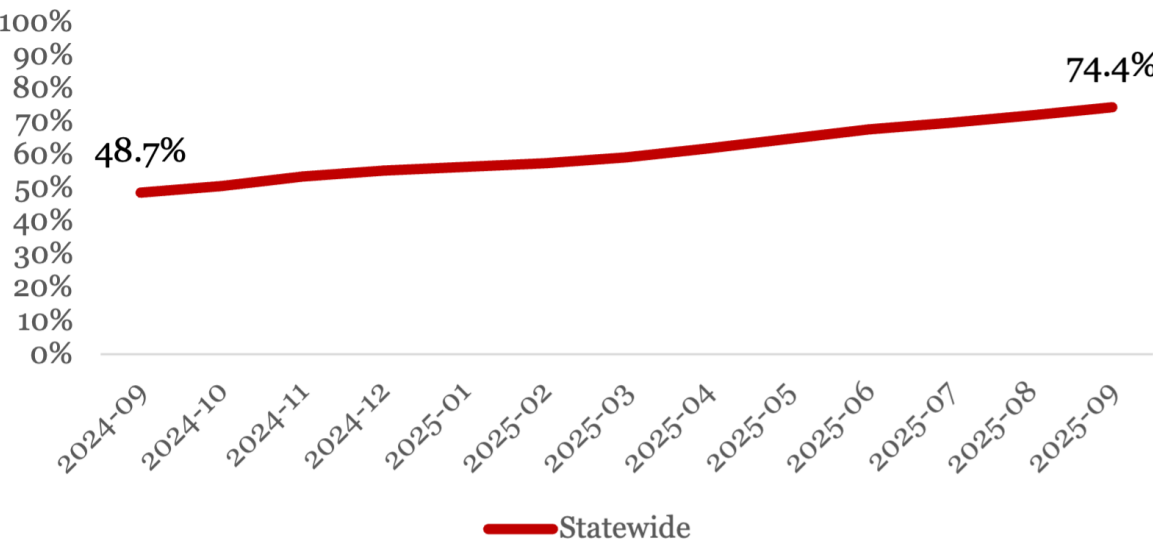
Child Care Seats | The Last Five Years in Texas



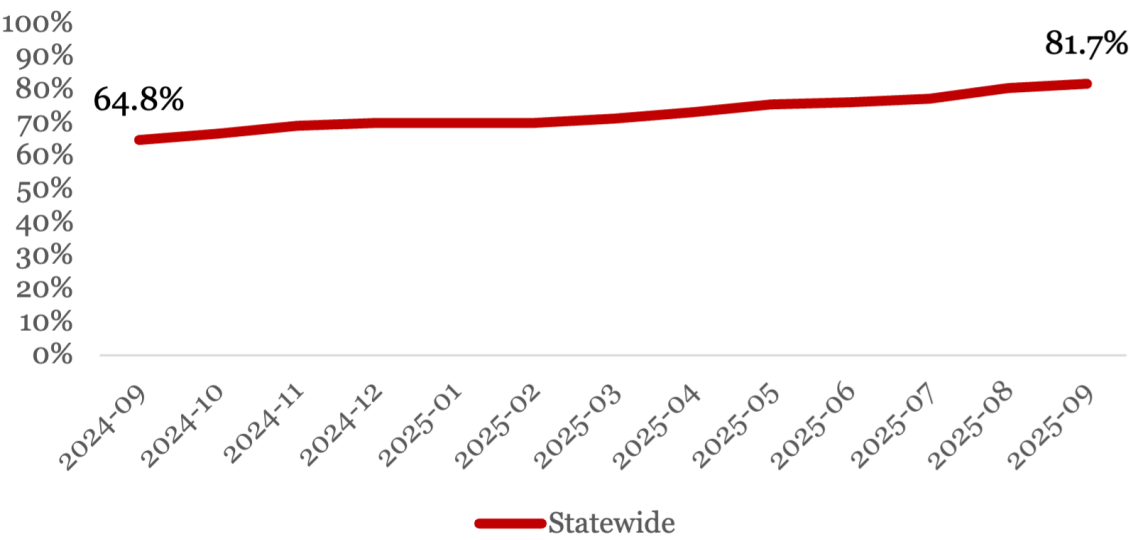
2026, CHILDREN AT RISK
Child Care Desert Map

Capital Area Texas Rising Star

Percent of Providers Participating in TRS Statewide



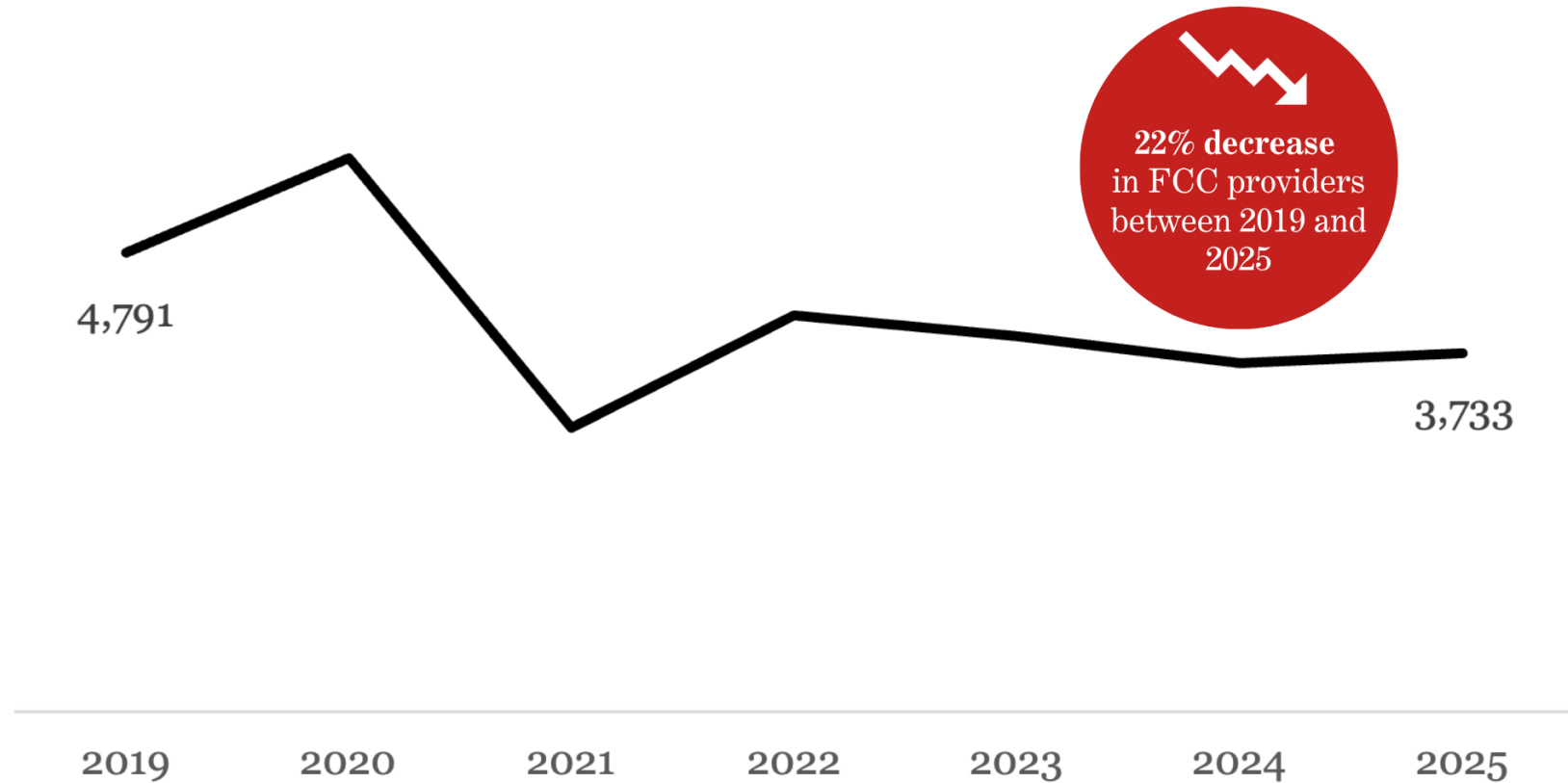
Percent of Children Receiving TRS Quality Care Statewide



2026, Texas Workforce Commission
Child Care by the Numbers

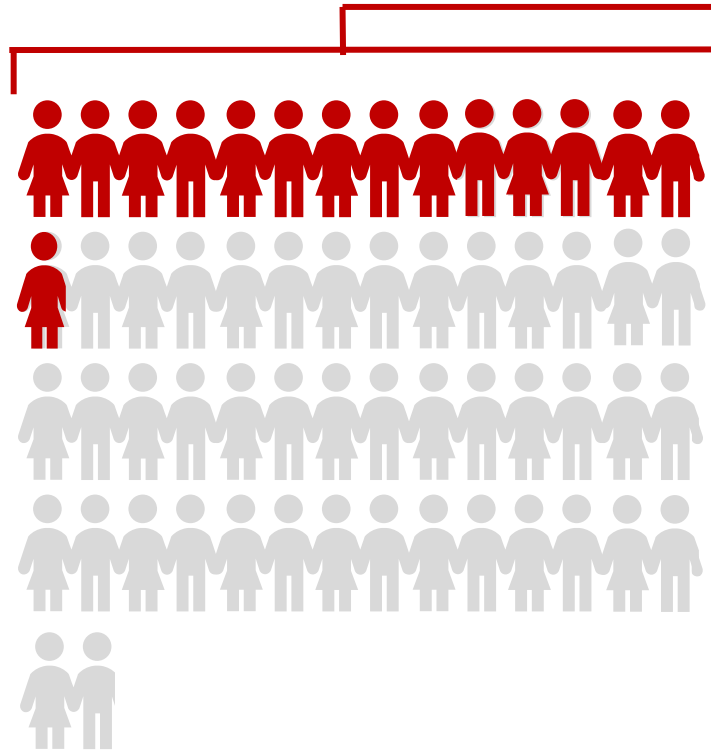
Family Child Care Homes

Number of Child Care Home Providers
Registered and Licensed Family Child Care Homes, 2019-2025



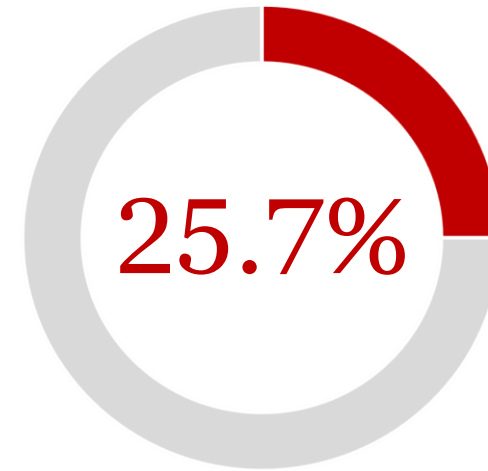
2026, Texas Workforce Commission
Child Care Data

Children Served with Funding vs Need



 = 10,000 low-income children
ages 0-5 with working parents

 = children ages 0-5 served by CCS



Just over **one in four**
low-income children ages 0-5
with working parents **receive**
subsidies for child care.

*2026, Texas Workforce Commission
Child Care Data*

Lyn Lucas M.Ed.

*Associate Director Early Childhood
Education, CHILDREN AT RISK*

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www.childrenatrisk.org

childrenatRisk



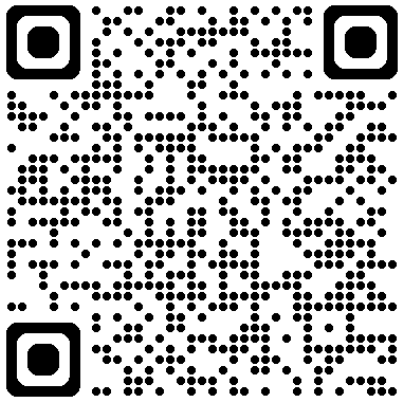
Thank you!



Updates from TELC Members

Sunset Update

- HHSC is currently under review.
- Sunset Documents on TWC can be found at <https://www.sunset.texas.gov/reviews-and-reports/agencies/texas-workforce-commission> or by scanning the QR code below.
 - Public hearing for TWC is scheduled for August 12th.



TEA Updates

Governor's Task Force on the Governance of Early Childhood Education and Care (HB 117)

<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/early-childhood-education/governors-task-force-on-early-childhood-education-and-care>

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- August 26th
- September 30th

Governor's Task Force on Early Childhood Education and Care

Task Force Overview

[House Bill 117](#), 89th Texas Legislature, establishes the governor's task force on the governance of early childhood education and care for the purpose of addressing the governance and operational challenges of the early childhood education system in Texas.

The task force consists of the 11 members appointed by the Governor. Not later than December 1, 2026, the task force will develop and submit policy and budget recommendations to the legislature designed to improve early childhood education and care governance.

Strategic Plan to Improve Early Learning Opportunities for Young Children with Disabilities (H.B. 2310)

Coordinated, multi-agency collaborative effort

- Texas Education Agency (TEA)
- Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
- Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)

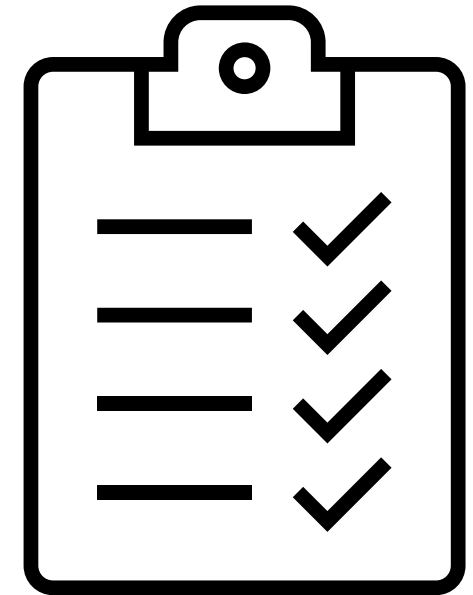
Purpose:

- Improve early learning and educational opportunities for young children with disabilities or developmental delays.
- Create a seamless continuum of services from birth through school entry, empowering families and providers to support each child's growth and success.

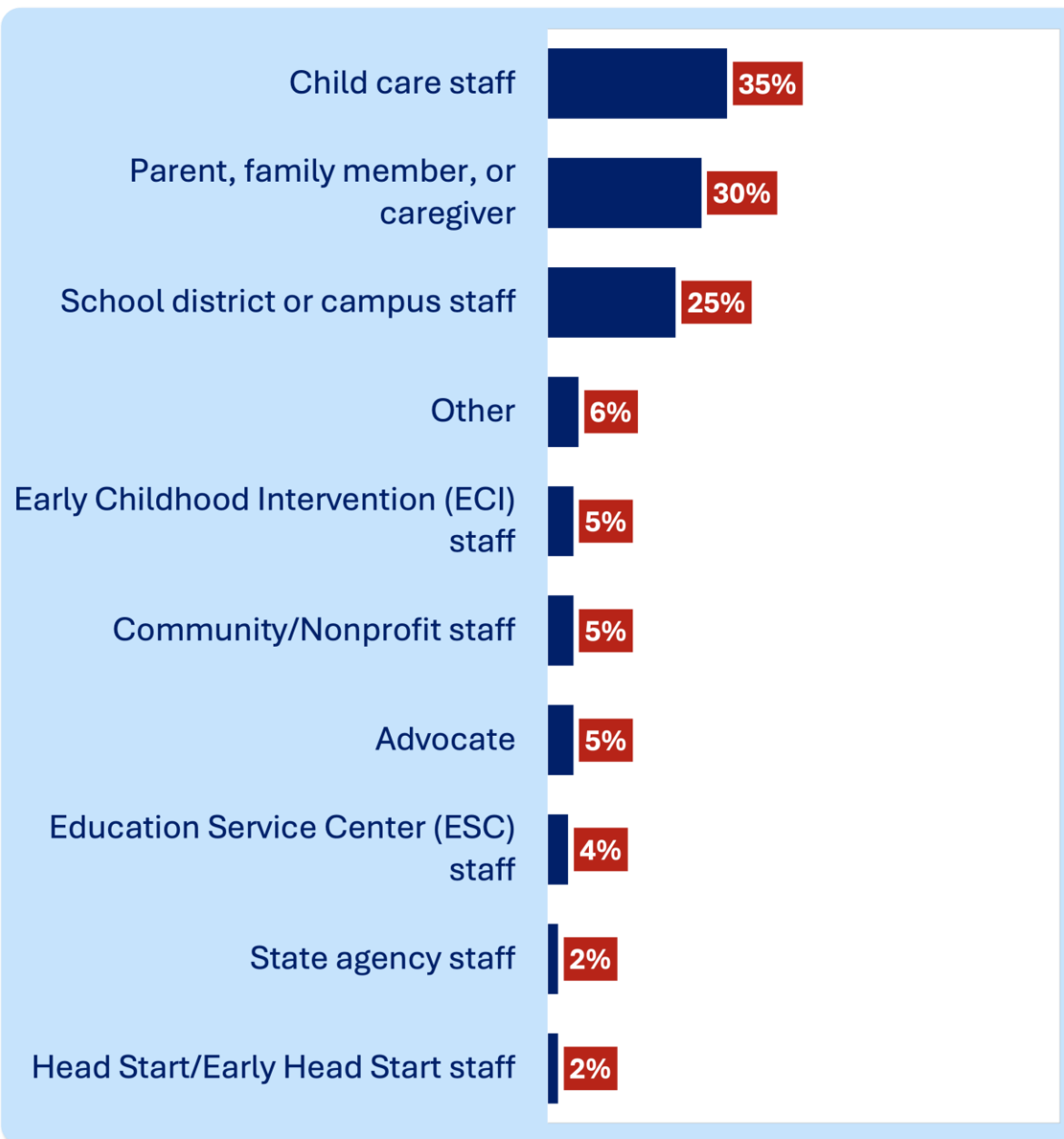
Published by September 1st, 2026

Strategic plan must:

- Describe the current landscape
- Identify barriers
- Propose strategies and actions
- Recommend policy and funding changes
- Outline how the plan will be sustained



- Statewide Stakeholder Survey (over 1,200 respondents)
- Parent and Caregiver/Provider Focus Groups
- Comprehensive Review of Previous Strategic Plan Data and Progress
- Consistent Cross Agency Strategic Plan Meetings
- Partnering with the Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing at UT Austin to assist with research and plan writing



Respondents could select all roles that apply

Our Vision

All Texas children with disabilities and developmental delays learn, and play, and meaningfully participate alongside children of the same age without disabilities.



- Cover letter signed by all agencies by August 14th
- Final Draft to Governor's Office by August 21st
- Published by September 1st
- TEA will lead tracking and monitoring of the implementation and communication plan and report out during the Early Childhood Interagency Workgroup

TEA will lead the tracking and monitoring of the implementation and communication plan and report out to the Early Childhood Interagency Workgroup (ECIW) to:

- Periodically update the work plan with agency progress
- Monitor overall progress toward the plan's goals
- Support ongoing implementation and coordination efforts

TEA with the assistance of ECIW will coordinate stakeholder communication and engagement by:

- Providing updates on plan progress
- Consulting regularly with the Texas Early Learning Council (TELC), the Governor's Task Force on Early Childhood Education and Care, and the Texas Quad Agency Child Care Initiative
- Sharing progress updates with relevant stakeholder groups during regularly scheduled meetings
- TEA will provide quarterly public updates on the Texas Early Childhood Inclusion Strategic Plan through:
 - Texas Early Learning Council (TELC) meetings
 - ECI Advisory Group meetings

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) to Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Transition Training

■ Pilot Trainings

- Education Service Center (ESC) Region 11 (Fort Worth) and ESC Region 13 (Austin)
- 100+ ECI and LEA participants

■ Current Status

- Pilot feedback collected and incorporated
- Final TEA leadership review underway

■ Next Steps

- Training of Trainers with ESC trainers/coaches – September 2026
- Statewide release anticipated – October 2026
- Asynchronous course in development – anticipated spring 2027



TWC Updates

Quad Agency Child Care Commission



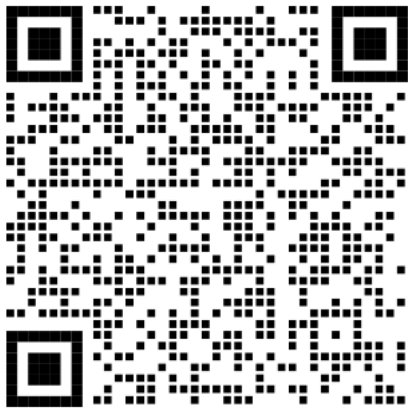
Updates from Aug 4th Meeting

- Approval of Quad Agency Responses to Public Comments Received
- Member Agency Updates
- Results of Quad Agency Review of Pre-K Partnership Data Collection
- Overview of New CCR/TWC Process for Stakeholder Input on Interagency Child Care Conflicts
- Public Comments
- Next Meeting 11/19/26 10am-12pm

PDG Reports



- Final report submitted 6/30/26.
- PDG Highlights of Year Three Accomplishments is located at the following URL at the bottom of the page under “Materials”.
<https://www.twc.texas.gov/sites/default/files/ccel/docs/preschool-development-grant-yr3-highlights.pdf>



Materials

PDG B-5 Grant Application 

Texas PDG B-5 Year One Accomplishments 

Texas PDG B-5 Year Two Accomplishments 

Texas PDG B-5 Year Three Accomplishments 

ELITE Grant



Early Learning Inclusion Training and Education (ELITE)

- Established collaboration with all 28 Workforce Boards, enrolling 291 staff members and launching the ELITE registration and pre-impact survey process.
- Deploying 16 virtual and 8 regional in-person training sessions for Boards and child care providers.
- Creating tailored ICD Support and Resource Guides to provide ongoing technical support to Boards and child care providers.

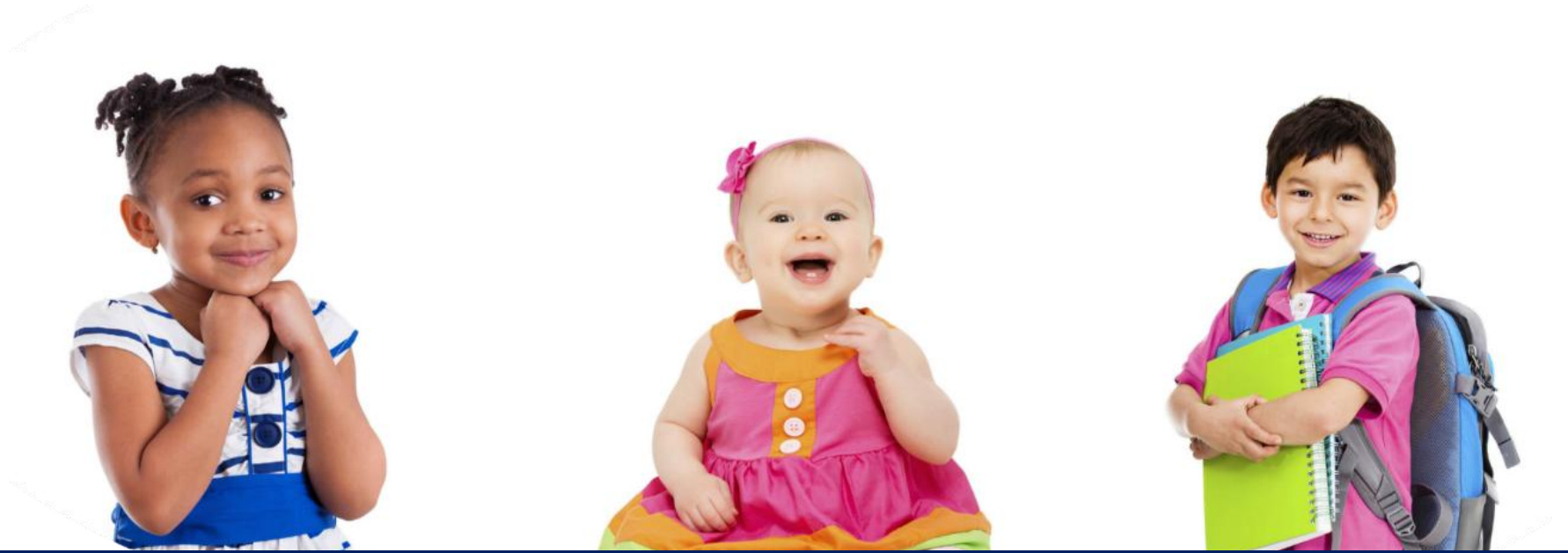
Early Childhood Intervention Update



Updates



Updates



Additional Updates from TELC Members

Upcoming Early Childhood Events

- ECI Advisory Committee
August 25, 2026, 1:30 p.m.
<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/about/advisory-committees/eci-advisory-committee>
- Governor's Task Force on Early Childhood Education and Care
August 26, 2026 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Governor's Task Force on Early Childhood Education and Care
September 30, 2026 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Texas Early Learning Interagency Collaborative Symposium (by invitation)
October 7, 2026
- Quad Agency Child Care Initiative Meeting
November 19, 2026 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Final TELC Meeting of the Year

- October 16, 2026 from 11am to 1pm

Adjourn



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

www.earlylearningtexas.org/

Next meeting:

October 16, 2026 from 11am to 1pm