

By: Zaffirini, et al.

S.B. No. 50

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to early childhood education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 28.006, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsection (d-1) to read as follows:

(d) The superintendent of each school district shall:

(1) report to the commissioner and the board of trustees of the district the results of the reading instruments; ~~and~~

(2) report, in writing, to a student's parent or guardian the student's results on the reading instrument; and

(3) using the school readiness certification system provided to the school district in accordance with Section 29.161(e), report electronically each student's raw score on the reading instrument to the agency for use in the school readiness certification system.

(d-1) The agency shall contract with the State Center for Early Childhood Development to receive and use scores under Subsection (d)(3) on behalf of the agency.

SECTION 2. Section 29.153, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d-1) to read as follows:

(d-1) On receipt of an application for an exemption under Subsection (d), the commissioner shall encourage the school

1 district requesting the exemption to make arrangements to provide
2 prekindergarten classes through a school readiness integration
3 project under Section 29.160.

4 SECTION 3. The heading to Section 29.160, Education Code,
5 is amended to read as follows:

6 Sec. 29.160. SCHOOL READINESS INTEGRATION [~~DEMONSTRATION~~]
7 PROJECTS.

8 SECTION 4. Section 29.160, Education Code, is amended by
9 amending Subsections (a), (b), (c), and (c-2) through (f) and
10 adding Subsection (c-3) to read as follows:

11 (a) The State Center for Early Childhood Development, in
12 conjunction with a school district, regional education service
13 center, institution of higher education, local government, local
14 workforce development board, or community organization, may
15 develop school readiness integration projects in conjunction with
16 [~~a quality rating system demonstration project under which~~]
17 prekindergarten program providers, licensed child-care facilities,
18 or Head Start and Early Head Start program providers [~~are assessed~~
19 ~~under a quality rating system~~].

20 (b) In developing school readiness integration projects
21 [~~the quality rating system demonstration project~~], the State Center
22 for Early Childhood Development is entitled to:

23 (1) reasonable access to the sites at which the
24 programs to be rated are operated, which may include sites under the
25 authority of school districts or the Department of Family and
26 Protective [~~and Regulatory~~] Services; and

27 (2) technical assistance and support from the agency,

1 the Texas Workforce Commission, and the Department of Family and
2 Protective [~~and Regulatory~~] Services to the extent that those
3 agencies have the ability to provide assistance and support using
4 existing agency resources.

5 (c) A school district, regional education service center,
6 institution of higher education, local government, local workforce
7 development board, or community organization may develop one or
8 more school readiness integration [~~coordination-of-resources~~
9 ~~demonstration~~] projects under which government-funded child-care
10 and early education services, including Head Start and Early Head
11 Start, prekindergarten, and after-school child-care program
12 services, child-care services provided by nonprofit or for-profit
13 entities, and faith-based child-care programs, are operated in a
14 coordinated and integrated manner. An entity that develops a
15 proposed school readiness integration [~~demonstration~~] project
16 under this subsection must obtain approval of the project from the
17 state agency or agencies with regulatory jurisdiction over the
18 subject matter involved in the project. Approval of a project under
19 this subsection must be made contingent on development of a
20 memorandum of understanding regarding the child-care and early
21 education coordination and integration that [~~is~~]:

22 (1) is entered into by each entity participating in
23 the project;

24 (2) is certified by the State Center for Early
25 Childhood Development as meeting any standards developed under
26 Section 29.155(g); [~~and~~]

27 (3) is consistent with the applicable provisions of

1 this section and applicable laws and regulations in a manner that at
2 a minimum maintains existing child-care and early education program
3 requirements and does not waive or reduce any existing health and
4 safety standards; and

5 (4) contains provisions ensuring that the project does
6 not result in the reduction of existing services or the redirection
7 of existing expenditures.

8 (c-2) A [~~demonstration~~] project established under
9 Subsection (c) must include a program evaluation component that, in
10 addition to assessing child-care and early education outcomes for
11 young children, demonstrates:

12 (1) the extent to which program quality has been
13 enhanced and the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional
14 development of young children has been promoted;

15 (2) the extent to which the number of children being
16 served by full-day, full-year programs has increased;

17 (3) the extent to which professional development
18 training or activities engaged in by program staff has increased;
19 and

20 (4) that there has been no weakening of standards or
21 diminishment of services.

22 (c-3) A project established under Subsection (c) that
23 obtains certification through the school readiness certification
24 system established under Section 29.161 is eligible for funds
25 available under Section 29.1561(c) and is entitled to priority
26 consideration in the award of those funds. Funds awarded under that
27 section may be used to:

1 (1) create a prekindergarten program;

2 (2) expand a prekindergarten program to serve children
3 who are three years of age;

4 (3) increase income eligibility levels to not more
5 than 300 percent of the federal poverty level for prekindergarten;
6 or

7 (4) add a teacher's aide to existing prekindergarten
8 classes.

9 (d) An entity that obtains approval of a school readiness
10 integration [~~coordination-of-resources demonstration~~] project is
11 entitled to a waiver or modification of any existing rule, policy,
12 or procedure of the agency, the Texas Workforce Commission, or the
13 Department of Family and Protective [~~and Regulatory~~] Services that
14 impairs the coordinated provision of government-funded child-care
15 services, provided that the waiver or modification does not
16 adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of the children
17 receiving services under the project. In addition, if applicable,
18 the appropriate state agency must seek on behalf of the entity any
19 available federal waiver from a federal rule, policy, or procedure
20 imposed in connection with a Head Start program that impairs the
21 coordinated provision of government-funded child-care services.
22 Not later than the 30th day after the date on which a state agency
23 becomes aware of an applicable federal waiver under this
24 subsection, the state agency shall notify the appropriate entity of
25 the date by which the state agency intends to seek the waiver.

26 (e) The State Center for Early Childhood Development and any
27 other entity that implements a [~~demonstration~~] project established

1 under Subsection (c) [~~this section~~] must provide a report to the
2 legislature and to the state agency or agencies with regulatory
3 jurisdiction over the subject matter involved in the project. The
4 report must include:

- 5 (1) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the project;
6 [~~and~~]
7 (2) recommendations on statewide implementation of
8 the project; and
9 (3) an evaluation of the level of participation in the
10 project by each type of provider.

11 (f) The report required by Subsection (e) must be provided
12 at the time specified jointly by the state agency or agencies with
13 regulatory jurisdiction over the subject matter involved in the
14 [~~demonstration~~] project established under Subsection (c).

15 SECTION 5. Subchapter E, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
16 amended by adding Section 29.1601 to read as follows:

17 Sec. 29.1601. SCHOOL READINESS INTEGRATION PROJECT
18 REGISTRY. (a) The State Center for Early Childhood Development
19 shall maintain a registry of qualified private entities that
20 volunteer to participate in a school readiness integration project
21 under Section 29.160.

22 (b) The State Center for Early Childhood Development shall:
23 (1) develop a process for interested private entities
24 to volunteer to participate in a school readiness integration
25 project; and
26 (2) determine whether a private entity is qualified to
27 participate.

1 (c) The State Center for Early Childhood Development shall
2 make the registry available to a school district, regional
3 education service center, institution of higher education, local
4 government, local workforce development board, or community
5 organization developing a school readiness integration project.

6 SECTION 6. Section 29.161, Education Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsections (d) through (h) to
8 read as follows:

9 (c) The system must:

10 (1) be reflective of research in the field of early
11 childhood care and education;

12 (2) be well-grounded in the cognitive, physical,
13 social, and emotional development of young children; ~~and~~

14 (3) apply a common set of criteria, including multiple
15 measures of program quality in addition to the results of a reading
16 instrument administered under Section 28.006, to evaluate each
17 program provider seeking certification, regardless of the type of
18 program or source of program funding; and

19 (4) be capable of fulfilling the reporting and notice
20 requirements of Sections 28.006(d) and (g).

21 (d) The agency shall collect each student's raw score
22 results on the reading instrument administered under Section 28.006
23 from each school district using the system created under Subsection
24 (a) and shall contract with the State Center for Early Childhood
25 Development for purposes of this section.

26 (e) The State Center for Early Childhood Development shall,
27 using funds appropriated for the school readiness certification

1 system, provide the system created under Subsection (a) to each
2 school district to report each student's raw score results on the
3 reading instrument administered under Section 28.006.

4 (f) The agency shall:

5 (1) provide assistance to the State Center for Early
6 Childhood Development in developing and adopting the school
7 readiness certification system under this section, including
8 providing access to data for the purpose of locating the teacher and
9 campus of record for students; and

10 (2) require confidentiality and other security
11 measures for student data provided to the State Center for Early
12 Childhood Development as the agency's agent, consistent with the
13 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. Section
14 1232g).

15 (g) A program provider must, in addition to any other
16 criteria applied by the system, meet the following criteria to be
17 eligible for certification under the system:

18 (1) be in good standing with the Department of Family
19 and Protective Services, if applicable; and

20 (2) use ongoing child assessment tools to guide lesson
21 planning and instructional approaches.

22 (h) For purposes of Subsection (g)(1), a provider is in good
23 standing with the Department of Family and Protective Services if
24 the department has not taken an action against the provider's
25 license, listing, or registration under Section 42.071, 42.072, or
26 42.078, Human Resources Code, during the two-year period preceding
27 the date of applying for certification.

1 SECTION 7. Subchapter G, Chapter 2308, Government Code, is
2 amended by adding Section 2308.3155 to read as follows:

3 Sec. 2308.3155. ENHANCED REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR CERTAIN
4 CHILD-CARE PROVIDERS. (a) A licensed child-care provider that
5 participates in a school readiness integration project established
6 under Section 29.160, Education Code, or obtains certification
7 under the school readiness certification system established under
8 Section 29.161, Education Code, is eligible for enhanced
9 reimbursement rates for services provided to children who are
10 younger than six years of age at a level to be determined by each
11 board but at least equal to the designated vendor rate provided by
12 Section 2308.315.

13 (a-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a licensed child-care
14 provider that meets the Texas Rising Star Provider criteria
15 described by 40 T.A.C. Section 809.15(b) is eligible for enhanced
16 reimbursement rates for services provided to children who are
17 younger than six years of age at a level to be determined by each
18 board but at least equal to the designated vendor rate provided by
19 Section 2308.315. A provider that receives increased reimbursement
20 rates under this subsection is encouraged to use the funds to obtain
21 certification under the school readiness certification system
22 established under Section 29.161, Education Code.

23 (b) To the extent that federal funds under the Temporary
24 Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program are available to the
25 state and are appropriated for this purpose, local workforce
26 development boards shall use those funds, in addition to funds from
27 the federal Child Care Development Fund, to provide enhanced

1 reimbursement rates under this section. The Texas Workforce
2 Commission shall distribute the increased federal funds directly to
3 local workforce development boards in the same proportion that
4 child care development fund quality improvement money is
5 distributed to local workforce development boards.

6 SECTION 8. Section 42.0421, Human Resources Code, is
7 amended by adding Subsections (e) and (f) to read as follows:

8 (e) The department, in coordination with the State Center
9 for Early Childhood Development and the Texas Advisory Council on
10 Early Childhood Education Career Development established under
11 Subchapter C, Chapter 72, may develop or seek proposals through a
12 competitive process for:

13 (1) the development and maintenance of one or more
14 training modules to be made available through the Internet and in
15 accordance with Section 42.042(p) as training modules an employee
16 may use to comply with Subsection (a)(1);

17 (2) the development and maintenance of a statewide
18 bilingual training portal that connects a person who provides child
19 care with training providers or other sources of training; or

20 (3) the development and implementation of a marketing
21 strategy to publicize the availability and importance of training
22 to all providers of early childhood care and education.

23 (f) The training modules developed and maintained under
24 Subsection (e) must:

25 (1) be consistent with applicable core knowledge and
26 skills, as identified by experts in the field of early childhood
27 education; and

1 (2) include a common postassessment that indicates an
2 acceptable level of learning by the employee.

3 SECTION 9. Effective January 1, 2009, Section 42.0421,
4 Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g) to read as
5 follows:

6 (g) Except as provided by Subsection (e), the training
7 required by this section must be provided by a person who:

8 (1) is a training provider registered with the Texas
9 Early Care and Education Career Development System's Texas Trainer
10 Registry that is maintained by the Texas Head Start State
11 Collaboration Office;

12 (2) is an instructor at a public or private secondary
13 school or at a public or private institution of higher education, as
14 defined by Section 61.801, Education Code, who teaches early child
15 development or another relevant course, as determined by rules
16 adopted by the commissioner of education and the commissioner of
17 higher education;

18 (3) is an employee of a state agency with relevant
19 expertise;

20 (4) is a physician, psychologist, licensed
21 professional counselor, social worker, or registered nurse;

22 (5) holds a generally recognized credential, such as a
23 certification to provide instruction in cardiopulmonary
24 resuscitation;

25 (6) is a family home care provider or director of a
26 day-care center in good standing with the department, if
27 applicable, provided that the department has not taken an action

1 against the provider's license, listing, or registration under
2 Section 42.071, 42.072, or 42.078 during the two-year period
3 preceding the date on which the provider or director provides the
4 training; or

5 (7) is approved by the commissioner of education,
6 based on the recommendation of the Texas Advisory Council on Early
7 Childhood Education Career Development established under
8 Subchapter C, Chapter 72.

9 SECTION 10. The heading to Chapter 72, Human Resources
10 Code, is amended to read as follows:

11 CHAPTER 72. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES [~~HEAD START~~
12 ~~PROGRAMS~~]

13 SECTION 11. Chapter 72, Human Resources Code, is amended by
14 designating Section 72.001 as Subchapter A and adding a subchapter
15 heading to read as follows:

16 SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

17 SECTION 12. Section 72.001, Human Resources Code, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Sec. 72.001. DEFINITIONS [~~DEFINITION~~]. In this chapter:

20 (1) "Advisory council" means the Texas Advisory
21 Council on Early Childhood Education Career Development.

22 (2) [7] "Head Start program" means the federal program
23 established under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. Section 9831 et
24 seq.) and its subsequent amendments.

25 SECTION 13. Subchapter A, Chapter 72, Human Resources Code,
26 as designated by this Act, is amended by adding Section 72.0015 to
27 read as follows:

1 Sec. 72.0015. REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO STATE CENTER FOR
2 EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT. (a) The State Center for Early
3 Childhood Development shall:

4 (1) comply with the contract management requirements
5 prescribed by Chapter 2262, Government Code;

6 (2) not later than December 1 of each even-numbered
7 year, prepare and submit to the presiding officers of the Senate
8 Committee on Finance and the House Appropriations Committee a
9 report detailing the use of all state money provided to the center
10 to fund early childhood education services; and

11 (3) provide center staff to appear before a standing
12 committee of the senate or house of representatives with
13 jurisdiction over public primary and secondary education on request
14 of the presiding officer of the committee.

15 (b) In each even-numbered year, the State Center for Early
16 Childhood Development shall allow an external evaluation, by an
17 organization under contract with the Texas Education Agency for
18 that purpose, regarding the management and implementation of school
19 readiness integration projects authorized by Section 29.160,
20 Education Code.

21 (c) The organization completing the external evaluation
22 under Subsection (b) must be selected through a competitive process
23 developed by the Texas Education Agency.

24 SECTION 14. Chapter 72, Human Resources Code, is amended by
25 designating Sections 72.002 and 72.003 as Subchapter B, renumbering
26 Sections 72.002 and 72.003 as Sections 72.051 and 72.052,
27 respectively, and adding a subchapter heading to read as follows:

1 SUBCHAPTER B. HEAD START PROGRAMS

2 Sec. 72.051 [~~72.002~~]. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES. To promote the
3 comprehensive health, safety, and well-being of children receiving
4 child care through Head Start programs, a program provider shall
5 provide educational services to children participating in the
6 program so that each child is prepared to enter school and is ready
7 to learn after completing the program. The educational services
8 provided must include components designed to enable a child to:

9 (1) develop phonemic, print, and numeracy awareness,
10 including the ability to:

11 (A) recognize that letters of the alphabet are a
12 special category of visual graphics that can be individually named;

13 (B) recognize a word as a unit of print;

14 (C) identify at least 10 letters of the alphabet;

15 and

16 (D) associate sounds with written words;

17 (2) understand and use language to communicate for
18 various purposes;

19 (3) understand and use an increasingly complex and
20 varied vocabulary;

21 (4) develop and demonstrate an appreciation of books;
22 and

23 (5) progress toward mastery of the English language,
24 if the child's primary language is a language other than English.

25 Sec. 72.052 [~~72.003~~]. COORDINATION OF SERVICES. (a) In a
26 manner consistent with federal law and regulations, each Head Start
27 and Early Head Start program provider shall coordinate with the

1 Texas Workforce Commission and local workforce development boards
2 regarding subsidized child-care services.

3 (b) The coordination required by this section must include
4 coordinating to ensure, to the extent practicable, that full-day,
5 full-year child-care services are available to meet the needs of
6 low-income parents who are working or participating in workforce
7 training or workforce education. The coordination may also
8 include:

9 (1) cooperating with the Texas Workforce Commission
10 regarding studies conducted by the commission;

11 (2) collecting data necessary to determine a child's
12 eligibility for subsidized child-care services or a Head Start or
13 Early Head Start program, when permissible;

14 (3) cooperating to provide for staff training and
15 professional development activities;

16 (4) identifying and developing methods for the
17 collaborative provision of subsidized child-care services and Head
18 Start or Early Head Start program services, including:

19 (A) sharing facilities or staff; and

20 (B) increasing the enrollment capacity of those
21 programs;

22 (5) identifying child-care facilities located in
23 close proximity to Head Start or Early Head Start programs; and

24 (6) coordinating transportation between child-care
25 facilities identified under Subdivision (5) and a Head Start or
26 Early Head Start program.

27 SECTION 15. Chapter 72, Human Resources Code, is amended by

1 adding Subchapters C and D to read as follows:

2 SUBCHAPTER C. TEXAS ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

3 CAREER DEVELOPMENT

4 Sec. 72.101. ESTABLISHMENT. (a) The Texas Advisory
5 Council on Early Childhood Education Career Development is
6 established to promote the recognition of early childhood educators
7 as professionals and assist in the development of professional
8 standards and educational opportunities for those educators.

9 (b) The advisory council shall coordinate its efforts with
10 the Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office.

11 (c) The advisory council is not subject to Chapter 2110,
12 Government Code.

13 Sec. 72.102. COMPOSITION. The advisory council consists
14 of:

15 (1) a representative of the Texas Education Agency, as
16 designated by the commissioner of education;

17 (2) a representative of the Texas Workforce
18 Commission, as designated by the executive director of the
19 commission;

20 (3) a representative of the Office of Early Childhood
21 Coordination established by the Health and Human Services
22 Commission, as designated by the executive commissioner of the
23 commission;

24 (4) a representative of the Texas Higher Education
25 Coordinating Board, as designated by the commissioner of higher
26 education;

27 (5) a representative of the Department of Family and

1 Protective Services with expertise relating to licensing of
2 child-care facilities, as designated by the commissioner of the
3 department;

4 (6) a representative of the State Center for Early
5 Childhood Development, as designated by the director of the center;

6 (7) a representative of the Texas Head Start State
7 Collaboration Office, as designated by the executive commissioner
8 of the Health and Human Services Commission;

9 (8) a representative of the Texas Cooperative
10 Extension, as designated by the director of the Texas Cooperative
11 Extension; and

12 (9) representatives of each of the following entities
13 or stakeholder groups, as designated by the commissioner of
14 education:

15 (A) statewide associations of early childhood
16 education professionals;

17 (B) statewide organizations that certify or
18 provide other credentials to individuals working in the field of
19 early childhood education;

20 (C) child-care resource and referral agencies;

21 (D) two-year and four-year colleges and
22 universities in this state;

23 (E) public school districts and charter schools
24 that offer secondary programs of study in the area of early
25 childhood education;

26 (F) a director of each of the following early
27 childhood program providers:

- 1 (i) Head Start programs;
- 2 (ii) programs provided by school districts;
- 3 (iii) nonprofit and for-profit licensed
- 4 day-care centers; and
- 5 (iv) family homes, as defined by Section
- 6 42.002;

7 (G) parents with children receiving services

8 through early childhood programs;

9 (H) an expert in early childhood intervention and

10 special education services; and

11 (I) community-based organizations.

12 Sec. 72.103. DUTIES. The advisory council shall:

13 (1) in conjunction with the organization with which

14 the Texas Education Agency contracts under Section 72.155 to manage

15 early childhood education partnership projects established under

16 Subchapter D, develop criteria for determining the effectiveness

17 and performance of those partnerships; and

18 (2) perform any other function specified by law or

19 identified as an appropriate function by the commissioner of

20 education.

21 Sec. 72.104. PRESIDING OFFICER. The commissioner of

22 education shall designate the presiding officer of the advisory

23 council.

24 Sec. 72.105. EXPENSES AND STAFF. (a) A member of the

25 advisory council may not receive compensation for serving on the

26 advisory council but is entitled to reimbursement of travel

27 expenses incurred by the member while conducting the business of

1 the advisory council as provided by the General Appropriations Act.

2 (b) The Texas Education Agency shall provide staff
3 assistance as necessary to enable the advisory council to perform
4 the advisory council's duties.

5 SUBCHAPTER D. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

6 Sec. 72.151. ESTABLISHMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
7 PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS. (a) A partnership project may be
8 established in any area of this state in accordance with this
9 subchapter to facilitate increased participation in professional
10 development by early childhood education professionals and
11 encourage those professionals to seek additional education.

12 (b) A partnership project may include participation by any
13 interested person, including:

14 (1) employers and employees involved in early
15 childhood education services, such as school districts, licensed
16 child-care facilities, registered family homes, Head Start program
17 providers, and resource and referral agencies; and

18 (2) providers of early childhood education training
19 programs, such as public high schools, community colleges,
20 universities, regional education service centers, cooperative
21 extensions, and the P-16 Council established under Section 61.076,
22 Education Code.

23 (c) Participation in a partnership project may not be
24 contingent on participation in a school readiness integration
25 project under Section 29.160, Education Code.

26 Sec. 72.152. PROJECT PLAN. (a) A partnership project
27 must:

1 (1) develop a coordinated plan under which early
2 childhood education professionals or students participating in the
3 project are able to receive appropriate college credit or
4 professional training; and

5 (2) obtain approval of the plan from the managing
6 organization selected under Section 72.155 and with the advice of
7 the advisory council.

8 (b) In addition to any other criteria required as a
9 condition of approval under Subsection (a)(2), the plan must:

10 (1) develop measurable objectives similar to those of
11 the Achieve Texas program administered by the Texas Education
12 Agency and the Closing the Gaps program administered by the Texas
13 Higher Education Coordinating Board;

14 (2) include training programs and nonduplicative
15 courses for which workforce certification and college credits may
16 be awarded;

17 (3) align training content with standards developed by
18 nationally recognized early childhood education accrediting
19 bodies;

20 (4) implement practices that allow teachers to observe
21 classrooms and centers considered by the advisory council to be
22 excellent;

23 (5) use valid and reliable preassessments and
24 postassessments that indicate an acceptable level of teacher
25 learning, as determined by secondary and higher education
26 requirements;

27 (6) provide an opportunity for a participating student

1 to earn three semester credit hours for the standard curriculum
2 resources course in an associate of applied science child
3 development degree by passing an assessment, submitting sample
4 materials, and providing documentation that the student has
5 completed at least 48 contact hours of approved training by a
6 registered trainer;

7 (7) encourage colleges and universities to grant as
8 much credit as possible for students who completed an early
9 childhood professions or child care and guidance management and
10 services program in high school, if the program meets the minimum
11 standards of the college or university relating to program quality;
12 and

13 (8) encourage universities to grant as much credit as
14 possible for students who have completed an associate of applied
15 science child development degree.

16 (c) The plan must also include a program evaluation
17 component that, in addition to assessing early childhood education
18 training opportunities, demonstrates:

19 (1) the extent to which an entity's early childhood
20 education training program quality has been enhanced;

21 (2) the extent to which the number of child-care
22 professionals receiving training has increased;

23 (3) the extent to which professional development
24 training opportunities have increased;

25 (4) the extent to which the professionals
26 participating in the partnership project demonstrate applicable
27 core knowledge and skills compared to professionals in a control

1 group; and

2 (5) the extent to which developmental and learning
3 outcomes of children in the classrooms of participating
4 professionals improve compared to children in a control group, as
5 measured by valid and reliable instruments.

6 Sec. 72.153. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING
7 PROFESSIONALS. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), an early
8 childhood education professional who participates in a partnership
9 project must complete at least 48 contact hours of training within
10 the 18-month period following the date on which the professional
11 begins participation.

12 (b) An individual with no previous training or employment
13 experience in a child-care facility may satisfy the training
14 requirement specified by Subsection (a) by completing at least 16
15 contact hours of preservice training and an additional 32 contact
16 hours within the 18-month period following the date on which the
17 individual begins employment in a child-care facility.

18 (c) The total number of contact hours of training required
19 under Subsection (a) may be equal to three or four semester credit
20 hours in a participating accredited institution.

21 Sec. 72.154. QUALIFIED EXPENSES AND REIMBURSEMENT. (a) A
22 partnership project shall pay qualified expenses, as determined by
23 the project's managing organization, for each early childhood
24 education professional who:

25 (1) participates in the project;

26 (2) pursues a higher education degree; and

27 (3) remains in the field of early childhood education

1 for two years.

2 (b) Qualified expenses may include:

3 (1) on-campus housing costs;

4 (2) tuition;

5 (3) books;

6 (4) transportation; and

7 (5) other expenses, as determined by the partnership
8 project's managing organization.

9 (c) A partnership project may provide reimbursement to a
10 child-care facility if an early childhood education professional is
11 required to complete contact hours during the regular business
12 hours of the child-care facility in accordance with procedures
13 created by the partnership project's managing organization.

14 Sec. 72.155. MANAGING ORGANIZATION. (a) The Texas
15 Education Agency, based on the recommendation of the advisory
16 council, shall contract with an organization to manage project
17 partnerships.

18 (b) The organization must be selected through a competitive
19 process developed by the Texas Education Agency and the advisory
20 council.

21 SECTION 16. Not later than December 1, 2009, the Texas
22 Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education Career Development,
23 as established by this Act, shall submit a report to the legislature
24 that evaluates the effectiveness of the changes in law made by this
25 Act. The report must specifically address any effect on the
26 recruitment, retention, and quality of early childhood education
27 providers, and any effect on associated student learning outcomes.

S.B. No. 50

1 SECTION 17. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, this
2 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.