

By: Zaffirini, et al.

S.B. No. 50

Substitute the following for S.B. No. 50:

By: Delisi

C.S.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), (c-2), (d), (e), and (f) and
10 adding Subsections (c-3) and (c-4) 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:

6 (A) a statement that the State Center for Early
7 Childhood Development has determined there is a need for additional
8 prekindergarten classrooms for three- and four-year-old children
9 in the area served by the project, based on a survey by the center of
10 existing nonprofit and for-profit entities providing child care
11 services in the area served by the project; and

12 (B) provisions ensuring that the project does not
13 result in the reduction of existing services or the redirection of
14 existing expenditures.

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

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

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

24 (3) the extent to which professional development
25 training or activities engaged in by program staff has increased;
26 and

27 (4) that there has been no weakening of standards or

1 diminishment of services.

2 (c-3) A project established under Subsection (c) that
3 obtains certification through the school readiness certification
4 system established under Section 29.161 is eligible for funds
5 available under Section 29.1561(c) and is entitled to priority
6 consideration in the award of those funds. Funds awarded under that
7 section may be used to:

8 (1) create a prekindergarten program;

9 (2) expand a prekindergarten program to serve children
10 who are three years of age and otherwise eligible under Section
11 29.153;

12 (3) increase income eligibility levels to not more
13 than 200 percent of the federal poverty level for prekindergarten;
14 or

15 (4) add a teacher's aide to existing prekindergarten
16 classes.

17 (c-4) In certifying school readiness integration projects
18 in accordance with Subsection (c) and Section 29.155(g), the State
19 Center for Early Childhood Development shall give priority to
20 projects involving coordinated participation of school districts,
21 Head Start and Early Head Start program providers, and nonprofit or
22 for-profit entities providing child-care services.

23 (d) An entity that obtains approval of a school readiness
24 integration [~~coordination of resources demonstration~~] project is
25 entitled to a waiver or modification of any existing rule, policy,
26 or procedure of the agency, the Texas Workforce Commission, or the
27 Department of Family and Protective [~~and Regulatory~~] Services that

1 impairs the coordinated provision of government-funded child-care
2 services, provided that the waiver or modification does not
3 adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of the children
4 receiving services under the project. In addition, if applicable,
5 the appropriate state agency must seek on behalf of the entity any
6 available federal waiver from a federal rule, policy, or procedure
7 imposed in connection with a Head Start program that impairs the
8 coordinated provision of government-funded child-care services.
9 Not later than the 30th day after the date on which a state agency
10 becomes aware of an applicable federal waiver under this
11 subsection, the state agency shall notify the appropriate entity of
12 the date by which the state agency intends to seek the waiver.

13 (e) The State Center for Early Childhood Development and any
14 other entity that implements a [~~demonstration~~] project established
15 under Subsection (c) [~~this section~~] must provide a report to the
16 legislature and to the state agency or agencies with regulatory
17 jurisdiction over the subject matter involved in the project. The
18 report must include:

19 (1) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the project;
20 [~~and~~]

21 (2) recommendations on statewide implementation of
22 the project;

23 (3) an evaluation of the level of participation in the
24 project by each type of provider; and

25 (4) an estimate of the total amount of federal, state,
26 and local funds spent providing early childhood education services
27 to children participating in the project.

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

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

7 Sec. 29.1601. SCHOOL READINESS INTEGRATION PROJECT
8 REGISTRY. (a) The State Center for Early Childhood Development
9 shall maintain a registry of qualified private entities that
10 volunteer to participate in a school readiness integration project
11 under Section 29.160.

12 (b) The State Center for Early Childhood Development shall:

13 (1) develop a process for interested private entities
14 to volunteer to participate in a school readiness integration
15 project; and

16 (2) determine whether a private entity is qualified to
17 participate.

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

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

26 (c) The system must:

27 (1) be reflective of research in the field of early

1 childhood care and education;

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

4 (3) apply a common set of criteria, including multiple
5 measures of program quality in addition to the results of a reading
6 instrument administered under Section 28.006, to evaluate each
7 program provider seeking certification, regardless of the type of
8 program or source of program funding; and

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

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

16 (e) The State Center for Early Childhood Development shall,
17 using funds appropriated for the school readiness certification
18 system, provide the system created under Subsection (a) to each
19 school district to report each student's raw score results on the
20 reading instrument administered under Section 28.006.

21 (f) The agency shall:

22 (1) provide assistance to the State Center for Early
23 Childhood Development in developing and adopting the school
24 readiness certification system under this section, including
25 providing access to data for the purpose of locating the teacher and
26 campus of record for students; and

27 (2) require confidentiality and other security

1 measures for student data provided to the State Center for Early
2 Childhood Development as the agency's agent, consistent with the
3 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. Section
4 1232g).

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

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

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

12 (h) For purposes of Subsection (g)(1), a provider is in good
13 standing with the Department of Family and Protective Services if
14 the department has not taken an action against the provider's
15 license, listing, or registration under Section 42.071, 42.072, or
16 42.078, Human Resources Code, during the two-year period preceding
17 the date of applying for certification.

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

20 Sec. 2308.3155. ENHANCED REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR CERTAIN
21 CHILD-CARE PROVIDERS. (a) A licensed child-care provider that
22 participates in a school readiness integration project established
23 under Section 29.160, Education Code, or obtains certification
24 under the school readiness certification system established under
25 Section 29.161, Education Code, is eligible for enhanced
26 reimbursement rates for services provided to children who are
27 younger than six years of age at a level to be determined by each

1 board but at least equal to the designated vendor rate provided by
2 Section 2308.315.

3 (a-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a licensed child-care
4 provider that meets the Texas Rising Star Provider criteria
5 described by 40 T.A.C. Section 809.15(b) is eligible for enhanced
6 reimbursement rates for services provided to children who are
7 younger than six years of age at a level to be determined by each
8 board but at least equal to the designated vendor rate provided by
9 Section 2308.315. A provider that receives increased reimbursement
10 rates under this subsection is encouraged to use the funds to obtain
11 certification under the school readiness certification system
12 established under Section 29.161, Education Code.

13 (b) To the extent that federal funds under the Temporary
14 Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program are available to the
15 state and are appropriated for this purpose, local workforce
16 development boards shall use those funds, in addition to funds from
17 the federal Child Care Development Fund, to provide enhanced
18 reimbursement rates under this section. The Texas Workforce
19 Commission shall distribute the increased federal funds directly to
20 local workforce development boards.

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

23 (e) The department, in coordination with the State Center
24 for Early Childhood Development and the Texas Advisory Council on
25 Early Childhood Education Career Development established under
26 Subchapter C, Chapter 72, may develop or seek proposals through a
27 competitive process for:

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

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

8 (3) the development and implementation of a marketing
9 strategy to publicize the availability and importance of training
10 to all providers of early childhood care and education.

11 (f) The training modules developed and maintained under
12 Subsection (e) must:

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

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

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

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

23 (1) is a training provider registered with the Texas
24 Early Care and Education Career Development System's Texas Trainer
25 Registry that is maintained by the Texas Head Start State
26 Collaboration Office;

27 (2) is an instructor at a public or private secondary

1 school or at a public or private institution of higher education, as
2 defined by Section 61.801, Education Code, who teaches early child
3 development or another relevant course, as determined by rules
4 adopted by the commissioner of education and the commissioner of
5 higher education;

6 (3) is an employee of a state agency with relevant
7 expertise;

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

10 (5) holds a generally recognized credential, such as a
11 certification to provide instruction in cardiopulmonary
12 resuscitation;

13 (6) is a registered family home care provider or
14 director of a day-care center in good standing with the department,
15 if applicable, and is only providing training at the home or center
16 where the provider or director and the person receiving training
17 are employed, provided that the department has not taken an action
18 against the provider's license or registration under Section
19 42.071, 42.072, or 42.078 during the two-year period preceding the
20 date on which the provider or director provides the training; or

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

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

1 CHAPTER 72. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES [~~HEAD START~~
2 PROGRAMS]

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

6 SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

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

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

12 (2) [~~7~~] "Head Start program" means the federal program
13 established under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. Section 9831 et
14 seq.) and its subsequent amendments.

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

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

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

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

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

5 (b) In each even-numbered year, the State Center for Early
6 Childhood Development shall allow an external evaluation, by an
7 organization under contract with the Texas Education Agency for
8 that purpose, regarding the management and implementation of school
9 readiness integration projects authorized by Section 29.160,
10 Education Code.

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

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

18 SUBCHAPTER B. HEAD START PROGRAMS

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

26 (1) develop phonemic, print, and numeracy awareness,
27 including the ability to:

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

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

4 (C) identify at least 10 letters of the alphabet;
5 and

6 (D) associate sounds with written words;

7 (2) understand and use language to communicate for
8 various purposes;

9 (3) understand and use an increasingly complex and
10 varied vocabulary;

11 (4) develop and demonstrate an appreciation of books;
12 and

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

15 Sec. 72.052 [~~72.003~~]. COORDINATION OF SERVICES. (a) In a
16 manner consistent with federal law and regulations, each Head Start
17 and Early Head Start program provider shall coordinate with the
18 Texas Workforce Commission and local workforce development boards
19 regarding subsidized child-care services.

20 (b) The coordination required by this section must include
21 coordinating to ensure, to the extent practicable, that full-day,
22 full-year child-care services are available to meet the needs of
23 low-income parents who are working or participating in workforce
24 training or workforce education. The coordination may also
25 include:

26 (1) cooperating with the Texas Workforce Commission
27 regarding studies conducted by the commission;

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

4 (3) cooperating to provide for staff training and
5 professional development activities;

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

9 (A) sharing facilities or staff; and

10 (B) increasing the enrollment capacity of those
11 programs;

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

14 (6) coordinating transportation between child-care
15 facilities identified under Subdivision (5) and a Head Start or
16 Early Head Start program.

17 SECTION 15. Chapter 72, Human Resources Code, is amended by
18 adding Subchapters C and D to read as follows:

19 SUBCHAPTER C. TEXAS ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

20 CAREER DEVELOPMENT

21 Sec. 72.101. ESTABLISHMENT. (a) The Texas Advisory
22 Council on Early Childhood Education Career Development is
23 established to promote the recognition of early childhood educators
24 as professionals and assist in the development of professional
25 standards and educational opportunities for those educators.

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

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

3 Sec. 72.102. COMPOSITION. The advisory council consists
4 of:

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

7 (2) a representative of the Texas Workforce
8 Commission, as designated by the executive director of the
9 commission;

10 (3) a representative of the Office of Early Childhood
11 Coordination established by the Health and Human Services
12 Commission, as designated by the executive commissioner of the
13 commission;

14 (4) a representative of the Texas Higher Education
15 Coordinating Board, as designated by the commissioner of higher
16 education;

17 (5) a representative of the Department of Family and
18 Protective Services with expertise relating to licensing of
19 child-care facilities, as designated by the commissioner of the
20 department;

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

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

26 (8) a representative of the Texas Cooperative
27 Extension, as designated by the director of the Texas Cooperative

1 Extension; and

2 (9) representatives of each of the following entities
3 or stakeholder groups, as designated by the commissioner of
4 education:

5 (A) statewide associations of early childhood
6 education professionals;

7 (B) statewide organizations that certify or
8 provide other credentials to individuals working in the field of
9 early childhood education;

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

11 (D) two-year and four-year colleges and
12 universities in this state;

13 (E) public school districts and charter schools
14 that offer secondary programs of study in the area of early
15 childhood education;

16 (F) a director of each of the following early
17 childhood program providers:

18 (i) Head Start programs;

19 (ii) programs provided by school districts;

20 (iii) nonprofit and for-profit licensed
21 day-care centers; and

22 (iv) family homes, as defined by Section
23 42.002;

24 (G) parents with children receiving services
25 through early childhood programs;

26 (H) an expert in early childhood intervention and
27 special education services; and

1 (I) community-based organizations.

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

3 (1) in conjunction with the organization with which
4 the Texas Education Agency contracts under Section 72.155 to manage
5 early childhood education partnership projects established under
6 Subchapter D, develop criteria for determining the effectiveness
7 and performance of those partnerships; and

8 (2) perform any other function specified by law or
9 identified as an appropriate function by the commissioner of
10 education.

11 Sec. 72.104. PRESIDING OFFICER. The commissioner of
12 education shall designate the presiding officer of the advisory
13 council.

14 Sec. 72.105. EXPENSES AND STAFF. (a) A member of the
15 advisory council may not receive compensation for serving on the
16 advisory council but is entitled to reimbursement of travel
17 expenses incurred by the member while conducting the business of
18 the advisory council as provided by the General Appropriations Act.

19 (b) The Texas Education Agency shall provide staff
20 assistance as necessary to enable the advisory council to perform
21 the advisory council's duties.

22 SUBCHAPTER D. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

23 Sec. 72.151. ESTABLISHMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
24 PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS. (a) A partnership project may be
25 established in any area of this state in accordance with this
26 subchapter to facilitate increased participation in professional
27 development by early childhood education professionals and

1 encourage those professionals to seek additional education.

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

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

8 (2) providers of early childhood education training
9 programs, such as public high schools, community colleges,
10 universities, regional education service centers, cooperative
11 extensions, and the P-16 Council established under Section 61.076,
12 Education Code.

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

16 Sec. 72.152. PROJECT PLAN. (a) A partnership project
17 must:

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

22 (2) obtain approval of the plan from the managing
23 organization selected under Section 72.155 and with the advice of
24 the advisory council.

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

27 (1) develop measurable objectives similar to those of

1 the Achieve Texas program administered by the Texas Education
2 Agency and the Closing the Gaps program administered by the Texas
3 Higher Education Coordinating Board;

4 (2) include training programs and nonduplicative
5 courses for which workforce certification and college credits may
6 be awarded;

7 (3) align training content with standards developed by
8 nationally recognized early childhood education accrediting
9 bodies;

10 (4) implement practices that allow teachers to observe
11 classrooms and centers considered by the advisory council to be
12 excellent;

13 (5) use valid and reliable preassessments and
14 postassessments that indicate an acceptable level of teacher
15 learning, as determined by secondary and higher education
16 requirements;

17 (6) provide an opportunity for a participating student
18 to earn three semester credit hours for the standard curriculum
19 resources course in an associate of applied science child
20 development degree by passing an assessment, submitting sample
21 materials, and providing documentation that the student has
22 completed at least 48 contact hours of approved training by a
23 registered trainer;

24 (7) encourage colleges and universities to grant as
25 much credit as possible for students who completed an early
26 childhood professions or child care and guidance management and
27 services program in high school, if the program meets the minimum

1 standards of the college or university relating to program quality;
2 and

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

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

9 (1) the extent to which developmental and learning
10 outcomes of children in the classrooms of participating
11 professionals improve compared to children in a control group, as
12 measured by valid and reliable instruments;

13 (2) the extent to which an entity's early childhood
14 education training program quality has been enhanced;

15 (3) the extent to which the number of child-care
16 professionals receiving training has increased;

17 (4) the extent to which professional development
18 training opportunities have increased; and

19 (5) the extent to which the professionals
20 participating in the partnership project demonstrate applicable
21 core knowledge and skills compared to professionals in a control
22 group.

23 Sec. 72.153. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING
24 PROFESSIONALS. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), an early
25 childhood education professional who participates in a partnership
26 project must complete at least 48 contact hours of training within
27 the 18-month period following the date on which the professional

1 begins participation.

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

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

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

- 15 (1) participates in the project;
16 (2) pursues a higher education degree; and
17 (3) remains in the field of early childhood education
18 for two years.

19 (b) Qualified expenses may include:

- 20 (1) tuition;
21 (2) books; and
22 (3) other instruction-related expenses, as determined
23 by the partnership project's managing organization.

24 (c) A partnership project may provide reimbursement to a
25 child-care facility if an early childhood education professional is
26 required to complete contact hours during the regular business
27 hours of the child-care facility in accordance with procedures

1 created by the partnership project's managing organization.

2 Sec. 72.155. MANAGING ORGANIZATION. (a) The Texas
3 Education Agency, based on the recommendation of the advisory
4 council, shall contract with an organization to manage project
5 partnerships.

6 (b) The organization must be selected through a competitive
7 process developed by the Texas Education Agency and the advisory
8 council.

9 Sec. 72.156. EXPIRATION OF SUBCHAPTER. This subchapter
10 expires September 1, 2011.

11 SECTION 16. Not later than December 1, 2010, the Texas
12 Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education Career Development,
13 as established by this Act, shall submit a report to the legislature
14 that evaluates the effectiveness of the changes in law made by this
15 Act. The report must specifically address any effect on the
16 recruitment, retention, and quality of early childhood education
17 providers, and any effect on associated student learning outcomes.

18 SECTION 17. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, this
19 Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of
20 all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39,
21 Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the
22 vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect
23 September 1, 2007, except as otherwise provided by this Act.