

# Texas School Ready! (TSR!) Grant Project

## Description:

Texas School Ready! (formerly known as TEEM-Texas Early Education Model) is a high quality early childhood model, based on proven school readiness components including:

- High quality, developmentally appropriate and rigorous curriculum;
- Continuous student progress monitoring;
- Professional development for teachers; and
- Creating and implementing a School Readiness Integration Partnership to coordinate services among school districts, child care providers, and Head Start programs participating in the School Readiness Certification System (SRCS).

The program is administered by the Children's Learning Institute (CLI) at the UT Health Science Center at Houston.

## Eligibility:

Applicants may be public school districts, open enrollment charter schools, Head Start Programs, and child care programs (profit/nonprofit, faith and community based organizations) conducting an early childhood or prekindergarten program with eligible students.

- Title I districts with 4 year-old eligible prekindergarten students
- Nonprofit or for-profit childcare settings serving at least 50% at-risk population of children or children eligible under federal child care assistance funded program

## Authority:

General Appropriations Act, 2009

- Article III, Rider 41, Early Childhood School Readiness Program
- Article VII (TWC) Rider 27, School Readiness Models

## Funding:

|             |                       |                       |                             |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| TEA Funding | <b>FY2010</b>         | \$7,150,000           | District Award              |
|             |                       | \$350,000             | Evaluation                  |
|             |                       | <u>\$7,500,000</u>    | Total                       |
|             | <b>FY2011</b>         | \$7,500,000           |                             |
| TWC Funding | <b>FY2010</b>         | \$11.7 million        |                             |
|             | <b>FY2011</b>         | <u>\$11.7 million</u> |                             |
|             | <b>Biennial Total</b> | \$38.4 million        | Annual total \$19.2 million |

Federal funding appropriated to the Texas Workforce Commission from the Administration for Children and Families, Child Care and Development Fund. Transferred to TEA via Interagency Agreement between TWC and TEA

## Evaluation:

- LBB evaluation, January 2011 (\$350,000) Key Findings:
  - The program is clearly and effectively structured at the statewide and regional levels, with extensive mentor and teacher oversight procedures in place to ensure fidelity to the program model.
  - Sound financial accounting and budget management processes are in place.
  - Nearly all prekindergarten students reached a level of "satisfactory" on progress monitoring assessments by the end of the year.
  - SRCS is founded on a strong research base and consistently applies its criteria for classroom certification in a fair way: participants in the field see a clear connection between the SRCS criteria and high-quality classrooms.
  - A few recommendations were to increase collaboration within partnerships, streamline the SRCS application process and focus attention on school/center administrators.
- UTHSC at Houston CLI self-evaluation, 2007-08:
  - 55% growth in phonological awareness
  - 150% growth in letter knowledge
  - 33% growth in vocabulary

## TSR! Profile

**2010-2011**—29 Grantees

1,942 classrooms served:

- 707 ISD
- 640 Head Start
- 595 Child Care

**2009-2010**—30 grantees (32 LEAs)

40,986 students served

1,863 classrooms served:

- 693 ISD
- 641 Head Start
- 529 Child Care