Texas School Readiness Certification System (SRCS)

Description:

The Texas School Readiness Certification System (SRCS) is a voluntary system for use in determining the effectiveness of prekindergarten, Head Start, and community-based child care programs in preparing children for kindergarten. The certification system was authorized under SB 23 in 2005 (TEC §29.161). SRCS was piloted in 2005-06 and fully implemented in the 2006-07 school year. The SRCS was adopted by the P-16 Council in 2006.

Eligibility:

School district and charter school prekindergarten, child care (for-profit and non-profit), and Head Start programs that are part of the Prekindergarten Early Start and Texas School Ready! grant programs are required to enter data into the SRCS.

Authority:

Texas Education Code §29.161
General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 45, 2009

Funding:

Fiscal Year	Amount
FY2010	$7,500,000
FY2011	$7,500,000
Total	**$15,000,000**

Evaluation:

Data from SRCS is used to

- Determine children's school readiness skills when they enter kindergarten,
- Certify classrooms as Texas School Ready!™, and
- Inform parents' decisions about where to place their children for preschool.

SRCS Profile

2010-2011
1,765 classrooms certified as Texas School Ready! (from 2008-09 school year)

2009-2010
5,760 classrooms entered in the system
2,084 classrooms certified as Texas School Ready! (from 2007-08 school year)

Features of SRCS

- FERPA-compliant, web-based application through which early childhood education programs enter information to be considered for certification as a Texas School Ready!™ Program. System collects data in four parts:
  - **Preschool Student/School Report:** amount of instruction per student and monthly attendance for preschool children
  - **Preschool Facility Report:** campus staffing, curriculum, and professional development at preschool
  - **Preschool Teacher Report:** teaching practices of preschool teacher
  - **Kindergarten Report:** reading and social screeners for entering kindergarten students
- Only early childhood quality rating system in the country linking prekindergarten activities in public school, Head Start, and community-based child care programs to kindergarten outcomes at the student level.