



The Promise of the Early Childhood Integrated Data

**Governor's Task Force on the Governance of Early
Childhood Education and Care**

6/30/26



THE COMMIT PARTNERSHIP'S MISSION



To increase the rate of living wage attainment to 50% of all Dallas County young adults ages 25-34 by 2040, irrespective of race.

High-quality ECE lays a strong foundation and serves as an economic mobility driver, supporting the workforce of today and cultivating the workforce of tomorrow

The Texas ECE system holds the potential for enormous impact on the lives of children and families.

Two-
Thirds

of the over 2.3 million children ages 0-6 in TX have **all parents in the household working**, and therefore need reliable early learning options.

48%

of Texas residents live in a neighborhood where there are more than **three times as many children** under the age of five **as licensed child care seats**.

Only
20%

of children 0-5 are **served by Texas' ECE programs** (including ~10% of those eligible for Child Care Scholarships and 44% of those eligible for public PreK).

Only
half

of students (51% in school year 2024-25) enter **kindergarten ready**.

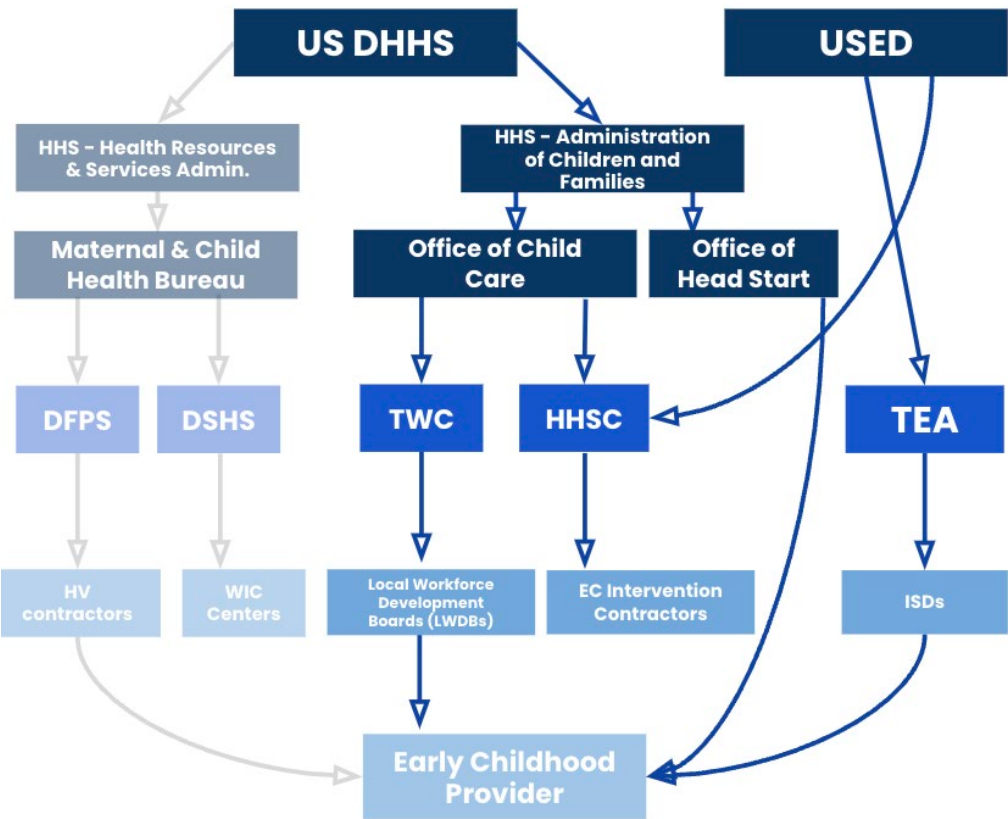
Texas cannot have transparency or accountability without meaningful information and that information is needed at every level of the early childhood system.



Category	Families	Providers	Local Leaders	State Policymakers
Access	Can I find an early childhood program that meets my family's needs?	Are families able to find and enroll in our programs?	Where are childcare and early learning deserts?	Are all Texas children able to access early childhood programs, regardless of where they live?
Demand & Capacity	Are there enough available spots where and when my family needs care?	Is our capacity aligned with community demand?	Is child care availability meeting the needs of our workforce and local employers? Where is lack of child care limiting parents' ability to work?	Is Texas' early childhood system meeting the needs of families and the state's economy? Where should investments expand capacity to strengthen the workforce?
Affordability	Can I afford child care, or am I eligible for financial assistance?	Are reimbursement rates and tuition sufficient to sustain high-quality operations?	Are cost barriers preventing families from accessing care?	Are public investments making early childhood programs affordable for families and sustainable for providers?
Quality	How do I know this program is high quality?	How can we improve quality and outcomes for children?	Which providers need quality improvement support?	Is the quality of early childhood programs improving statewide?
Workforce	Will my child have consistent, qualified teachers and caregivers?	Can we recruit and retain enough qualified staff?	Where are workforce shortages limiting access and quality?	What policies and investments are needed to strengthen the early childhood workforce?
Outcomes	Will this program help prepare my child for kindergarten and beyond?	Are children in our programs making meaningful developmental progress?	Are community investments improving child and family outcomes?	Are Texas' early childhood investments leading to better outcomes for children and meeting statewide goals?

Fragmented Programs, Fragmented Data: Why Gaps Exist

This fragmentation is the core reason Texas lacks integrated early childhood data and why accountability is difficult to achieve.



State Agency	ECE Programs & Initiatives	Data Systems Used
Texas Education Agency (TEA)	Early Education Special Education Public Preschool	Early Childhood Data System (ECDS)
Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office (THSSCO)	Head Start Early Head Start	Head State Enterprise System (HSES)
Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)	Child Care Licensing Early Childhood Intervention	Child Care Regulation (CCR) Online Account
Texas Workforce Commission	Child Care Scholarships Texas Rising Star	TWIST Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS)



Texas has been building toward a more accountable and transparent ECE system for decades through legislation and coordination efforts

RELEVANT LEGISLATION • 1985–2025



BUILDING ECIDS • TEXAS EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL • 2009–2027

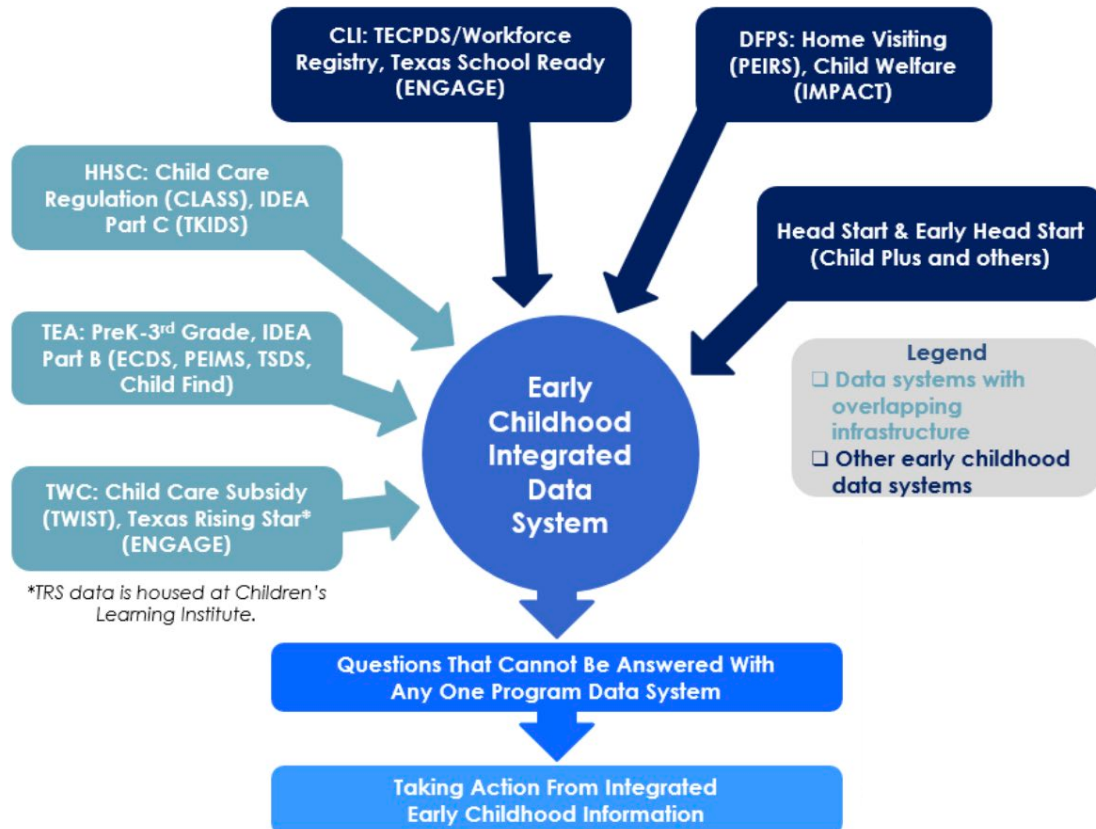


Sources: Texas Education Code (TEC) §§48.108, 29.153–29.167. The Texas Early Learning Council (TELC) is Texas’ State Advisory Council under the 2007 Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act, with representatives from TEA, TWC, HHSC, and the Head Start State Collaboration Office.

 | 6

HB 3963 (89R): A Foundation for Transparency and Accountability

Leveraging existing data to generate statewide insights that inform programs and policy.



In Texas, integrated data could:

- Identify bright spots, gaps, underserved populations, and opportunities for alignment
- Identify where early childhood services correlate with child progress in key metrics
- Inform coordination across our programs

Initial Development: Codifies existing ECIDS efforts to unify data sharing, inform policy, and improve programs by 2027

- **Lead Agency:** Texas Education Agency
- **Reporting:** Due no later than September 1 of each year to the Governor and Legislature on progress in developing, establishing, and operating the system
- **Funding:** No funding was appropriated by the legislature

* An ECIDS would be compliant with federal and state privacy and cybersecurity statutes and not include de-identified, individual data.

Governance redesign and ECIDS work together to improve outcomes and accountability

Governance Redesign without ECIDS

Structural change happens (programs consolidate, leadership is unified) but the **system cannot measure whether it is actually working**. Taxpayers and policymakers must take it on faith. Accountability is structural, not evidential.



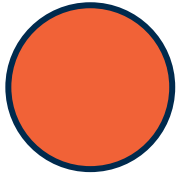
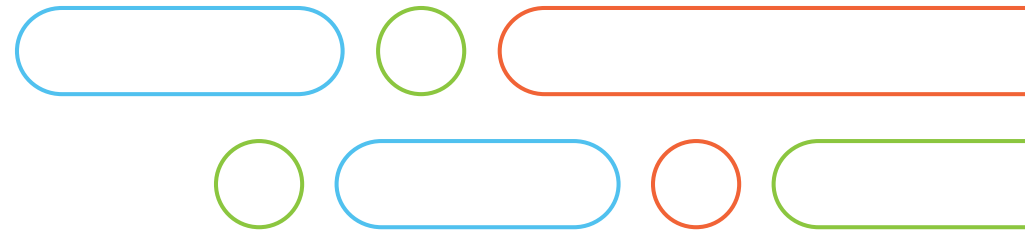
ECIDS without Governance Redesign

Better data becomes available (outcomes can be tracked across programs) but the underlying fragmentation remains. The data shows where the system is failing but **there is no unified authority to act on those findings at scale**.

Together

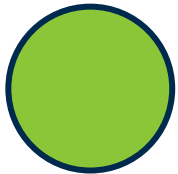
Governance redesign creates the unified structure. ECIDS provides the evidence. The result is an ECE system that is **effective, measurable, and accountable** to children, to families, and to the public.

What Becomes Possible



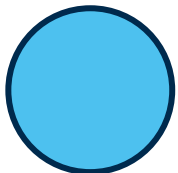
FOR CHILDREN

A unified system wraps around the whole child, connecting early care, health, and education, so no child falls through the gaps between programs. Outcomes are tracked from birth through early grades and used to improve services.



FOR FAMILIES

One coherent entry point replaces a maze of separate applications, eligibility rules, and waitlists. Families get connected to the right services faster and navigate the system with confidence.



FOR TAXPAYERS AND POLICYMAKERS

Public investment in ECE is tracked against real outcomes. Duplication is reduced. Program effectiveness is visible. Accountability is built into the structure, not added on later as an afterthought.

Questions?

