TEXANS CARE for CHILDREN

2015 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Early Education

Ample research has demonstrated that strong cognitive, social, and emotional development of children from birth to age five provides the foundation for success in school and in life. Yet the state currently allows a single child care teacher to monitor up to 15 three-year-olds at a time, for example. That makes it difficult to read the children a book and provide the other kinds of attention they need to learn and stay safe. The state's public school pre-K program can effectively prepare eligible four-year-olds for elementary school, but it will accomplish more with greater focus on quality and resources.

- Establish an Office of Early Learning at the Texas Education Agency to increase accountability for pre-K funds, better align resources, promote local solutions, and develop statewide strategies to improve early education.
- Reduce student-teacher ratios in child care to increase safety for children and provide them with greater learning opportunities.
- Improve pre-K quality and access throughout the state by pursuing greater investment, new funding strategies, heightened outreach efforts, and public-private collaborations.

Our full agenda, including our five other issue areas, is available on our website: http://tinyurl.com/2015legeagenda

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