

Texas Prekindergarten Expansion Grant (PEG)

Proposed by the Texas Education Agency

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) in collaboration with the Children's Learning Institute (CLI), selected Regional Education Services Centers (ESC) – and supported by the National Child Care Coalition (NCCC), P16plus Council of Greater Bexar County, Communities In Schools (CIS) of San Antonio, Alamo Colleges, and Texas Private Schools Association (TPSA) -- proposes to build on the state's progress to date by providing high-quality preschool programs in two or more high-need communities through two expansion models and two enhancement models. Through the four models, we plan to increase the number and percentage of eligible students served in high-quality preschool programs as well as improving existing preschool programs. Regardless of the implementation model, all programs will be implementing the high-quality components defined in the application.

The TEA, throughout the proposal, has set goals for all children that are engaged in a prekindergarten programs to have a multitude of positive learning experiences. Children are "ready" for school when families, schools, and communities work together to ensure their developmentally-appropriate, age-level success across a variety of domains. These goals are addressed in the U.S. Department of Education's Absolute Priorities and Competitive Priorities. Through the activities defined in the PEG program, the goals, and support from a broad group of stakeholders, Texas will adopt a common framework for providing high quality in-service training and coaching, and delivering comprehensive services across its high-need communities.

Effective implementation, particularly of large-scale programs or policies, is an iterative process that progresses in overlapping stages. The quality of the fully implemented program is closely related to the quality of planning, evaluation, and feedback that must occur at each stage in order to refine and improve the fully implemented program. Attention to these stages help build shared understandings and commitment across the broad range of stakeholders and program personnel with the capacity to sustain and scale-up programs. The stages, activities and milestones, will lead to effective implementation.

TEA has assembled an experienced team with a full array of expertise and experience required to implement the PEG successfully. Building on the reputation for high-quality early childhood education – as evidenced by the success of the Texas School Ready! project,

combined with the selected Regional Education Service Centers, TEA is poised to promote school readiness and support the ability of teachers, administrators, and parents across the state.