



earlymatters

AUSTIN • DALLAS • EL PASO
HOUSTON • SAN ANTONIO • WACO

October 13th, 2023

Board of Directors
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
221 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Attn:

Michael Lyttle, Director of External Affairs – michael.lyttle@tdhca.state.tx.us
Bobby Wilkinson, Executive Director – bobby.wilkinson@tdhca.state.tx.us

Re: 2024 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) Rules

Dear TDHCA Board of Directors,

According to a [2017 study](#) by the Texas Education Agency, pre-kindergarten attendance was associated with a 2-percentage point lower likelihood of dropping out of school, a 6-percentage point higher likelihood of graduating high school on time, a 7-percentage point higher likelihood of enrolling in college, and a 6-percentage point higher likelihood for students who enrolled in college to persist in attending a second year of college.

Pre-K was additionally associated with a 16-percentage point higher likelihood of demonstrating the knowledge and skills to be considered ready for kindergarten upon initial kindergarten enrollment.

Estimates of the return on investment in pre-K range from [\\$2 to \\$13 per dollar spent](#), showing that it is fiscally responsible to invest in early childhood development. Considering Texas students of all ages have continued to struggle post-pandemic with early literacy and mathematical skills, revitalized commitment of effort and funds towards education will only serve children well.

For these reasons, we strongly support the proposed QAP rules, especially §11.101(b)(7): To meet its Resident Supportive Services requirement, an application may elect to provide Children Supportive Services including a High-Quality Pre-Kindergarten program, On-site services provided to K-12 children, and/or a shuttle to and from nearby schools not served by a school bus.

Expanding access to education will always benefit children and the state of Texas itself. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this needed initiative.

For additional information, please contact:

Hope Osborn | Director of Government Affairs
hope.osborn@texas2036.org | 214-477-9442
210 W. 7th Street, Suite 1100, Austin, Texas 78701