

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
Child Care & Early Learning
Technical Assistance Bulletin 297

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Subject: *Early Learning Public-Private Partnerships Guidebook*

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This Technical Assistance (TA) Bulletin provides Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) with the *Early Learning Public-Private Partnerships Guidebook*, recently released by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) (Attachment).

The 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2019), enacted House Bill (HB) 3, which makes two statutory changes with respect to child care that have implications for Boards.

First, HB 3 includes new requirements for full-day prekindergarten (pre-k) for all eligible four-year-old children. Independent school districts (ISDs) and public charter schools continue to have the option to provide half-day pre-k programs to eligible three-year-old children. Full-day pre-k programs for eligible four-year-old children and half-day pre-k programs for eligible three-year-old children are both supported through TEA funds.

Second, HB 3 includes a provision for public-private pre-k partnerships to expand the availability of pre-k services. A public-private pre-k partnership is a collaboration between an ISD or charter school and a child care provider to provide high-quality pre-k programs to eligible three- and/or four-year-old children. If an ISD could not provide full-day pre-k to eligible four-year-old children in the 2019–2020 school year, then it has had the option to apply for a waiver. Before applying for a waiver, the ISD must attempt to partner with local child care providers. The option for ISDs that cannot provide full-day pre-k to eligible four-year-old children to apply for a waiver extends through the 2021–2022 school year.

With the input of Texas Workforce Commission staff, TEA has created the *Early Learning Public-Private Partnerships Guidebook* to facilitate the development of public-private pre-k partnerships. This resource provides guidance on:

- benefits of partnerships;
- funding options for partnerships;
- the steps of developing a partnership; and
- explanations of other requirements, such as data reporting and attendance accounting.

Attachment

Attachment: *Early Learning Public-Private Partnerships Guidebook*

Please distribute this information to appropriate staff, providers, and contractors.

Send inquiries regarding this TA Bulletin to Shay.Everitt@twc.state.tx.us.