

1 **Texas Early Childhood Learning Summit**
2 **Discussion Paper**

3 **Background**

4 The Texas Workforce Commission’s (TWC) three-member Commission (Commission) approves
5 funds annually to support the Texas Early Childhood Learning (TECL) Summit. The summit
6 provides high-quality professional development to early childhood professionals. It is limited to
7 Texas Rising Star (TRS) providers and prekindergarten teachers, with registration held on a first-
8 come, first-served basis. The annual funds pay attendees’ hotel and registration costs. Attendees
9 pay the costs of travel and meals.

10 Since 2016, when TWC began hosting the summit with the Office of the Governor and the Texas
11 Education Agency, the summit has:

- 12 • hosted 600–900 early childhood educators each year from across the state;
- 13 • had an average of 38 percent attendance rate by independent school district professionals;
- 14 • provided a wide variety of training sessions (59 at the 2018 TECL Summit and over 70 in
15 2019); and
- 16 • offered 10 hours of professional development annually to each attendee.

17 **Issue 1: Estimated Cost of Two Locations**

18 As requested during the June 25, 2019, Commission meeting, staff has prepared for approval an
19 estimate of the cost of holding the TECL Summit at two locations in 2020, rather than one.

20 **Issue 2: Waiting Lists**

21 Each year, during registration, the number of registrants reaches the summit’s capacity, and the
22 waiting list grows exponentially. The 2019 waiting list reached more than 500 registrants in only
23 five days.

24 **Issue 3: No Limit on the Number of Attendees per Provider**

25 No limit has been placed on the number of staff members that each TRS provider may send to
26 the summit. Attendance is based on how quickly individuals register, with several providers
27 registering a significant number of staff members.

28 **Issue 4: No-Shows**

29 A staff review of attendance at previous TECL Summits indicates that about 28 percent of
30 registrants do not attend.

31 **Decision Points**

32 Staff seeks direction on the following:

- 33 • Increasing the annual TECL Summit budget from \$750,000 to \$1,250,000 to support a
34 second location for the TECL Summit in 2020
- 35 • Determining the locations of the summit, while keeping in mind that providers from across
36 the state must pay for their staff members to travel to the locations that are selected

- 1 Additionally, considering the overwhelming number of requests to attend and the high number of
2 registrants who ultimately do not attend, per data from the previous four TECL Summits, staff
3 seeks direction on the following:
- 4 • Limiting to two the number of staff members that each TRS provider may send to the
5 summit, giving priority to registrants who have never attended the summit, and allowing
6 additional child care educators to be authorized if space is available
 - 7 • Implementing a \$20 registration fee to encourage a commitment to attend