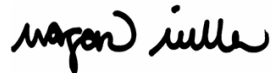


TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
Workforce Development Letter

ID/No:	WD 16-23
Date:	September 27, 2023
Keyword:	Child Care
Effective:	Immediately

To: Local Workforce Development Board Executive Directors
Commission Executive Offices
Integrated Service Area Managers



From: Reagan Miller, Director, Child Care & Early Learning Division

Subject: **Planning for Individualized Instruction Initiative**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this WD Letter is to provide Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) with guidance on opportunities through the Planning for Individualized Instruction (PFII) initiative to support child care programs in accessing child progress monitoring tools as part of a strategy to improve the quality of child care.

RESCISSIONS:

None

BACKGROUND:

Since 2017, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has supported the PFII initiative, the goal of which is to improve the quality of early learning in child care using child progress monitoring tools and related instructional materials. TWC issued a Request for Application (RFA) and intends to award grant funds to an entity that will provide child progress monitoring tools and related supports for child care program teachers to plan individualized instruction that meets the needs of the children they serve. Grant funds aim to provide start-up support for child care programs to become proficient with child progress monitoring tools and individualized instruction practices.

TWC plans to require the PFII grantee to partner with Boards interested in supporting providers' ongoing efforts to use child progress monitoring tools that individualize instruction. TWC will ask PFII applicants to describe how they will foster sustainable use of child progress monitoring beyond the availability of TWC grant funds.

Texas Rising Star criteria include a child care program's use of child progress monitoring tools. Given that, Boards may be interested in supporting use of the tools, using local quality improvement funding.

PROCEDURES:

No Local Flexibility (NLF): This rating indicates that Boards must comply with the federal and state laws, rules, policies, and required procedures set forth in this WD Letter and have no local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to comply. All information with an NLF rating is indicated by “must.”

Local Flexibility (LF): This rating indicates that Boards have local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to implement guidance or recommended practices set forth in this WD Letter. All information with an LF rating is indicated by “may” or “recommend.”

NLF: Boards must ensure that child care staff members whose work involves quality initiative planning and procurement are aware of the three subsequent local flexibilities. TWC will share more details with Boards upon grant execution.

LF: Boards may decide whether to partner with a grant applicant or grantee if a Board is contacted by the applicant and/or the grantee.

LF: Boards also may use their 4 percent child care quality funds to sustain the use of child progress monitoring tools for child care programs that participate in the PFII grant.

LF: Additionally, Boards may purchase the child progress monitoring tools and related supports from the grantee under TWC’s grant agreement terms during the grant period. The purchases will satisfy procurement requirements.

NLF: If a Board purchases child progress monitoring tools and related supports from the grantee under the terms outlined in TWC’s grant agreement, the Board must ensure that the procurement method is documented, including referencing this WD Letter and TWC’s active PFII grant agreement in place when the tools and supports were purchased. TWC will rescind this WD Letter when the grant period expires.

INQUIRIES:

Send inquiries regarding this WD Letter to childcare.programassistance@twc.texas.gov.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

REFERENCES:

None