

HOW WILL COORDINATING EARLY CHILDHOOD DATA SYSTEMS BENEFIT CHILDREN?

Coordinating data across programs that serve Texas children

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HIGHLIGHTS

- *There is currently little coordination between programs that serve young children and the public school system.*
- *Texas recently passed House Bill 680. This legislation will help connect information from our child care subsidy system to our public school system.*

CURRENT DATA SYSTEMS

Though many of the 130,000 Texas children in subsidized child care will likely attend public elementary schools, there is little to no coordination between those programs and the public school system. This results in separate, disconnected student data systems for every program. Despite these systems being funded by taxpayers, our elementary schools have little information about incoming students, and child care providers have no way of knowing any future outcomes for the children who were in their care.

While key data about children, classrooms, and teachers is already being collected by Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), the data is not well-connected and meaningful analyses are difficult. Improvements are needed to make these systems work better together and across agencies.

HOUSE BILL 680

House Bill (HB) 680 was passed by the Texas Legislature and signed by the governor in 2019. It requires that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and TWC begin to coordinate their databases in order to:

- maximize existing resources,
- coordinate school readiness efforts,
- more efficiently use state funds, and
- implement strategies that build on TWC's priorities.

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Better data systems can allow child care providers to make informed programmatic decisions and help Texas leaders make good, data-driven policy decisions.

HB 680 is just the first step toward this work. A well-funded and structured database can assist with collaboration amongst child care providers, public schools, Local Boards, and school districts to coordinate student, teacher, and program data between TWC and TEA , reducing duplication across publicly-funded systems, allowing parents to make more informed decisions, empowering local stakeholders to better serve families, helping individual early childhood education programs be more impactful, and yielding better outcomes for children.

For more information, visit <https://childrenatrisk.org/hb-680-impact/> .

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CHILDREN AT RISK is a Texas based research and advocacy organization. Our mission is to serve as a catalyst for change to improve the quality of life for children through strategic research, public policy analysis, education, collaboration, and advocacy.

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