



S.B. 1755 (Birdwell)

Reducing Barriers for Pre-K Partnerships

Everyone wins with public/private pre-kindergarten partnerships:

- High quality child care providers receive stable support to provide pre-kindergarten to eligible kids in all kinds of communities and settings.
- School districts can access state funding without the need to pass bonds to build new facilities
- Children receive high-quality education and care for the full day instead of the limited hours of school.
- Parents have real child care choices and can work full-time without concern about what their child will do at 2:30 when the school bell rings.
- Employers recruit, retain, and count on working parents to stay in the workforce.

Texas Can Make Pre-K Partnerships Easier without Spending Money: Under current law, high quality child care providers, school districts, charter schools who want to partner must have the same Certificates of Occupancy, Schools districts and charter schools have **Certificate of Occupancy License E for Education**. Child care providers have a **Certificate of Occupancy License I for Industry**.

Patchwork of Local Laws Makes It Hard to Partner: Municipalities vary greatly on requirements to change a classification. This patchwork of conflicting requirements is a significant deterrent to partnerships, effectively limiting Pre-K access without any clear benefit to safety or educational quality.

Many child care providers cannot afford to make required changes in order to alter their Certificate of Occupancy License. Even providers who have successfully provided the same services for years under their existing license often cannot partner.

PROPOSED POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Allow child care providers to use their current Certificate of Occupancy to serve PreK children to partner with school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to develop a PreK Partnership.

FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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