



## S.B. 1755 (Birdwell)

### Reducing Barriers for Pre-K Partnerships

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#### **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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