

children atRisk

Improve Oversight and Accountability of Contracted Child Care Services

BACKGROUND

Texas child care providers depend on contracts and reimbursement systems that must operate consistently and transparently to ensure stable services for children and families. When payment processes, contracting requirements, communication, and performance expectations are unclear or inconsistent, providers face unnecessary administrative burden and financial uncertainty that can affect program operations and family access to care. Strengthening oversight and accountability across contracted services will help ensure that all parties responsible for administering the system meet clear standards for quality, responsiveness, and performance.

This recommendation will establish mutual accountability across the child care system by setting clear expectations for both providers and the state and local entities responsible for administering and overseeing services. It will improve communication, payment reliability, and consistency, strengthen provider performance, and create a more transparent and dependable system that supports provider stability and ensures families can access reliable child care services.

PROPOSED POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Children at Risk proposes specific policy reforms for the 90th Texas Legislature: Improve oversight and accountability of contracted child care services by establishing clear performance standards, transparent expectations, and shared accountability measures for providers, state agencies, and local administrators to ensure quality service delivery and reliable support for Texas families

- **Establish Clear Performance Standards**

- Establish clear performance standards and expectations for providers, state agencies, and local administrators responsible for contracted child care services.
- Ensure standards address communication, payment reliability, and consistency in program administration.
- Set benchmarks for responsiveness and quality that apply across contracted services statewide.

Create Shared Accountability Measures

- Develop shared accountability measures across providers, state agencies, and local administrators to promote quality service delivery.
- Require regular reporting on performance against established standards.
- Use existing oversight structures to strengthen provider stability and support reliable access to child care for Texas families.

FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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