



Early Care & Education Committee

August 7, 2026



Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2026





Consent Agenda

Quality Improvement Rating System (QRIS)



In September 2022, the Commission adopted amendments to the TWC Chapter 809 Child Care Services rules, effective October 2022, all child care early learning programs in CCS must participate in the state QRIS, Texas Rising Star.

In order to be a CCS provider, programs must:

- Meet the Entry Level designation point threshold; and
- Attain at least a Two-Star certification level within 24 months

Texas Rising Star is intended to measurably improve the quality of child care and early learning programs to enhance children's development and promote school readiness.



Texas Rising Star Update

Texas Rising Star	Entry Level	Suspension	Total
482	85	22	589
82%	14%	4%	100%

2 STAR	3 STAR	4 STAR	Total
41	153	288	482
8%	32%	60%	100%



Texas 
Rising Star



Questions





Child Care Contractor

EQUUS Professional Development Training



Equus Alamo Child Care Program Professional Development Presentation

Free Training for Providers, Staff &
Parents

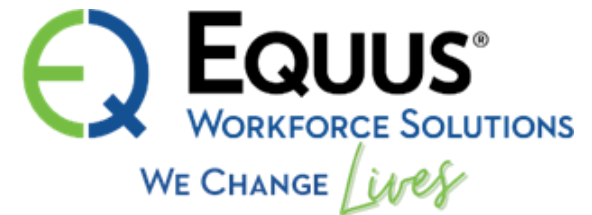
August 2026

Kimberly Villarreal, Operational Excellence Manager

Lisa Elizondo, Project Director



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Trauma Informed Practice

Dynamic
Works

Four sections:



Understand Stress & Trauma



Practical Everyday Tools



Support Children & Families



Earn a Completion Certificate

Register

Website: dynamicinstitute.my.site.com/s/

Registration Code: 26TIP

Care Connect Learning



Flexible Schedule



Self-Paced Learning



Communication & Leadership



Professional Growth

Website: dynamicinstitute.my.site.com/s/

Registration Code: **26Care**

Wellbeing Gateway- Launching soon

Dynamic
Works

- ❤️ Mental Wellness
- 😊 Stress Management
- ⚖️ Work-Life Balance
- 🌱 Healthy Habits

More information coming soon!

Coming Soon

- ✓ Texas Rising Star (TRS) Certificates
 - ✓ Additional Professional Development
 - ✓ Expanded Learning Library
 - ✓ More Parent Resources
- 

Why Participate?

Our strategies help us advance Board priorities and ensure high-quality child care across our community.



**Provider Collaboration
& Engagement**



**\$ FREE Access
📱 Online & Self-Paced**



**Commitment to Quality
& Compliance**

Questions?



Thank you!

August 2026

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Lisa Elizondo, Project Director





Questions





Child Care Updates

Timothy Schindler, Director of Child Care



TWC Performance Target and Updates



- The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has determined that due to the increase in the average rate per child, TWC will be serving fewer CCS children in Board Contract Year 2027. The proposed impact on Workforce Solutions Alamo will be a loss of approximately 1900 slots.

	BCY27 Draft Combined Target	BCY 27 Draft Mandatory	BCY27 Draft Discretionary	BCY 26 Combined	Percent Change
Alamo	10,616	1,140	9,476	12,509	-15.13%
Statewide	132,689	12,487	120,202	146,736	-9.57%

TWC Performance Target and Updates



- Projection through BCY31. The piece highlighted in yellow was added locally to show the decrease percentage year over year.

Summary	BCY27	BCY28	BCY29	BCY30	BCY31
Kids per Day	132,689	114,314	100,416	85,273	86,174
Cost per Kid per Month	\$ 902.23	\$ 1,004.93	\$ 1,064.84	\$ 1,157.59	\$ 1,219.11
LBB Children Served Per \$1 Million	87	78	74	68	64
Decrease in Kids per Day Served from Previous Year		-14%	-12%	-15%	1%

- The following chart was created locally to show the projected decrease in targets using the proposed BCY27 target and the calculated percentages from previous chart. It estimates a BCY31 target of less than 8,000.

	Proposed	Calculated			
	BCY27	BCY28	BCY29	BCY30	BCY31
Projected Target	10,616	9,146	8,034	6,822	6,894
Decrease in Kids per Day Served from Previous Year		-14%	-12%	-15%	1%

TWC Performance Target and Updates



- TWC Commissioners will vote to modify the BCY'26 Average Number of Children per Day Target, to the BCY'27 Target, for all Boards who have a lower target in BCY'27. The updated target would go into effect with the issuance of the July 2026 MPR.

	BCY26 Original Target	BCY26 Updated Target, effective July MPR	Change	Current Performance for June	Updated Percentage Based on Updated Target
Alamo	12,509	10,616	-1893	12,039	113%



Child Care Service – Intake

- In April Alamo began the process of enrolling from the Waitlist to increase numbers.
- In early July, Alamo received initial targets for Board Contract Year 2027 which indicated a large reduction in target. Due to the projected decrease, Alamo has stopped enrolling from the waitlist pending further evaluation of impacts.
- **Recommendation:** Alamo will stop enrollments, add-ons, and re-enrollments to allow for attrition.



Child Care Service – Intake

- Total Cases: 903 cases
- Total Received: 544 cases
- Pending Completion: 9 cases
- Vendor Search: 3 cases, 5 children
- Enrolled: 359 cases, 608 children
- Voluntary Suspension: 66 cases, 139 children
- Did Not Qualify : 57 cases, 123 children



Board Priority Groups

- The current policy over the Board Priority Groups did not include the Texas Workforce Commission set priority groups.
- In addition, the word “Pilot” was removed from the rural priority group section.
- These updates were made to ensure all Priority Groups could be found in one place.



Inclusion Assistance Rate

Supporting children with disabilities by increasing access to high-quality, inclusive child care through funding, accommodations, provider support, and individualized services.

In 2025, the Board recognized that inclusion request had increased from 26 in 2024 to 47 in 2025. For contract year 2026, the board requested and received approval from Texas Workforce Commission to utilize quality funding to add an Inclusion Specialist to oversee the requests and expand the program to better meet the needs of the community.

Included is a table to show the number of inclusion requests that have been requested by parents, renewals conducted and if applicable those that were not recommended.

Year	Total CWDs	Renewals	Denied/Did Not Qualify
2023	13	1	1
2024	26	4	0
2025	47	8	1
2026	40	15	0



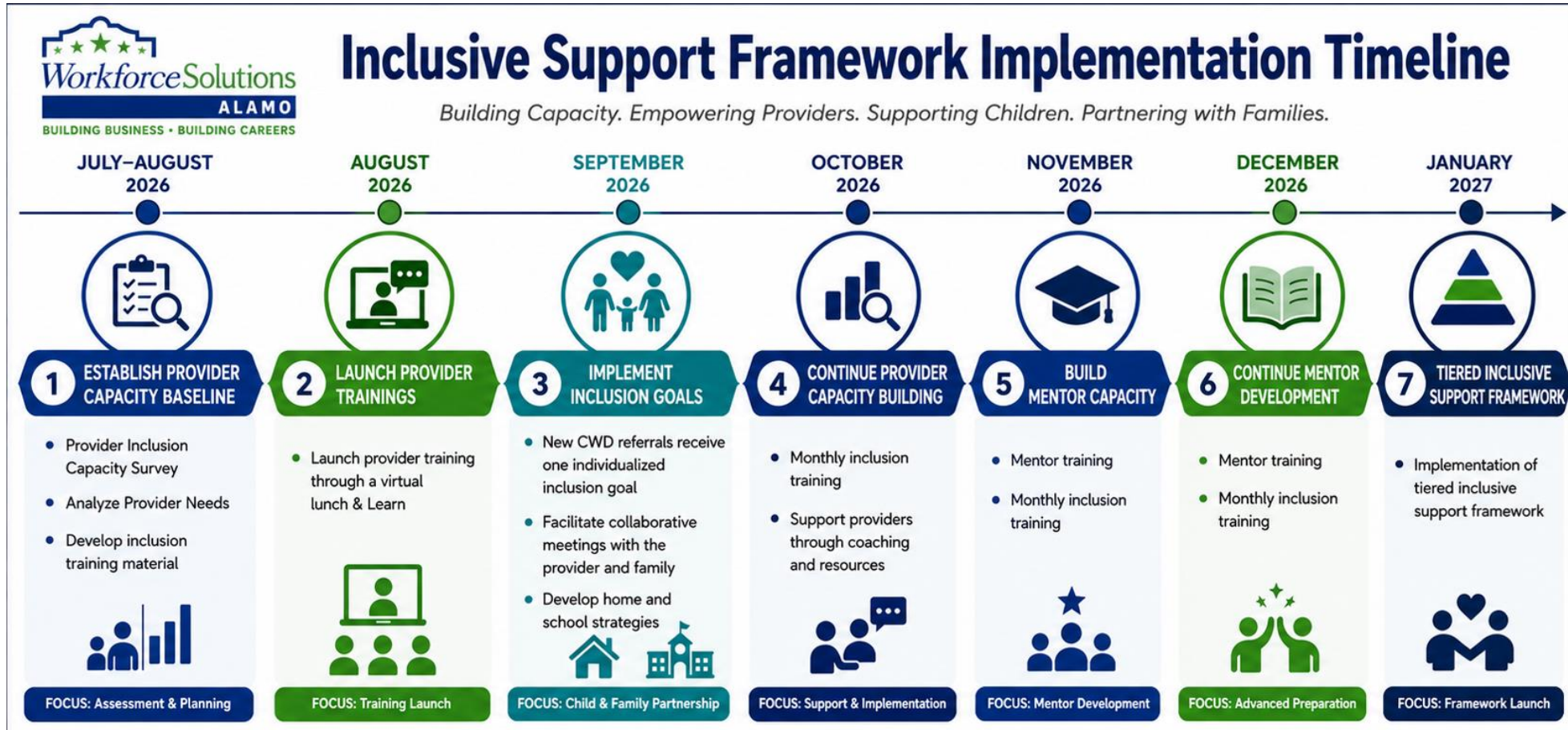
Inclusion Specialist

In 2026, the quality contractor on boarded the Inclusion Specialist, Eric Smith.

Eric will be expanding and shaping the Inclusion Program to expand provider capacity, build inclusive practices, measure children's outcomes, establish family partnership, strengthen implementation, increase mentor knowledge and launch a tiered Inclusive Support Framework.



Inclusion Support Timeline





Workforce One Bus - Update

As part of our planning for the upcoming year, Workforce Solutions Alamo has asked the child care contractor to identify activities that maximize the utilization of the Workforce One Bus. The request was part of the July Monthly Contractor Meeting.

Name of Event	Year
Alamo Quality Pathway Ignite the Wonder	BCY 2025
Alamo Quality Pathway Ignite the Wiggle	BCY 2026
Developing a schedule for events	BCY 2027

These recommendations will inform the development of an annual calendar of events designed to expand outreach, and engagement throughout the region. Next Steps – share the schedule in the October's Early Care and Education Committee.

Upcoming event for BCY 2026 -Alamo Quality Pathway Conference
Ignite The Wiggle – September 26th, 2026 at ESC Region 20 from
8:30-4:30 pm.

Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) Updates



Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) Program Update Board Meeting Discussion



SUMMARY

Since July 2026, the Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) program has moved from planning into implementation. The focus has shifted from applications and eligibility to funding, enrollment verification, and management of the inaugural year's waitlist.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

- JULY 1**
First funding installment (25%)
- MID-AUGUST**
First funding for students confirmed by July 31
- OCTOBER 1**
Second installment
- LATER IN THE SCHOOL YEAR**
Remaining installments are scheduled later in the school year.

ALTERNATIVES & FISCAL IMPACT

- Families with school-age children may experience greater educational choice, potentially affecting before- and after-school care demand.
- Child care providers serving pre-kindergarten and school-age children may see shifts in enrollment patterns.
- Employers may receive more questions from employees about coordinating TEFA with child care and after-school arrangements.
- Workforce boards may need to monitor whether changes in school enrollment influence demand for Child Care Services (CCS), particularly for wraparound care and summer programs.

EARLY JULY: FIRST FUNDING INSTALLMENT



Beginning July 1, 2026, the Comptroller started distributing the first installment of TEFA awards to eligible students whose enrollment had been confirmed by participating schools.

- Private school students receive 25% of their annual award in the first installment.
- Students participating through approved homeschool or other eligible educational settings receive their full \$2,000 annual award in one payment.

Additional funding rounds are occurring as schools verify enrollment.

NEXT STEPS

MONITOR
Monitor school-age child care enrollment trends.

ENGAGE
Engage child care providers regarding changing service demands.

COLLABORATE
Collaborate with school districts, private schools, and community organizations to identify emerging needs.

EXPLORE PARTNERSHIPS
Explore employer-assisted child care and wraparound care partnerships.

INFORM & REFER
Provide families with information and referrals related to available child care resources.

EVALUATE
Evaluate potential impacts on Child Care Services utilization and capacity planning.



TEFA implementation is underway. Ongoing collaboration will help ensure families, employers, and communities are supported.



Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) Updates



TEFA DATA OVERVIEW

Number of Students / Applications by School District and Grade Level (Pre-K – 12th Grade)



30,890

Total Students / Applications



38

School Districts Represented



Pre-K – 12

Grade Levels Included



65%

Top 5 Districts' Share of Total

TOP DISTRICTS BY TOTAL

District	Total
1 Northside ISD – San Antonio	7,077
2 North East ISD	5,411
3 Comal ISD	3,359
4 San Antonio ISD	2,235
5 Judson ISD	1,866
6 Boerne ISD	1,497
7 Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD	1,243
8 New Braunfels ISD	1,080

TOTAL (All Districts) 30,890

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Northside ISD and North East ISD together represent about **40%** of all records shown.



TEFA has broad regional reach across **38** school districts.

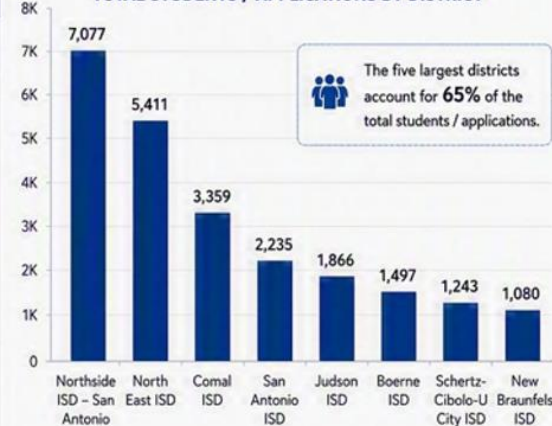


Smaller and rural districts generally show totals below **300**.

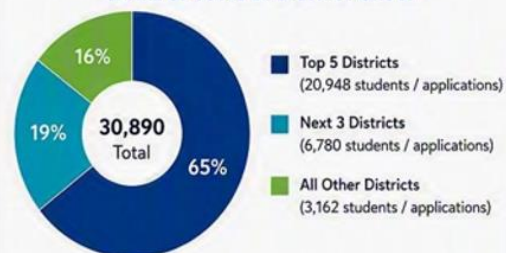


Several districts only show a district total without a grade-level breakdown.

TOTAL STUDENTS / APPLICATIONS BY DISTRICT



SHARE OF TOTAL BY DISTRICT GROUP



Data reflects the number of students / applications in TEFA by school district and grade level.
Source: TEFA Data Extract | Total Records: 30,890

STUDENTS / APPLICATIONS BY GRADE LEVEL (ALL DISTRICTS)

Grade Level	Students / Applications	% of Total
Pre-K	3,376	10.9%
Kinder	2,925	9.5%
1st	2,725	8.8%
2nd	2,615	8.5%
3rd	2,771	9.0%
4th	2,740	8.9%
5th	2,707	8.8%
6th	2,807	9.1%
7th	2,545	8.2%
8th	2,430	7.9%
9th	2,446	7.9%
10th	2,131	6.9%
11th	1,819	5.9%
12th	1,596	5.2%
TOTAL	30,890	100%



TEFA demand extends beyond Pre-K and elementary grades and includes students through 12th grade.

OVERALL INTERPRETATION



TEFA has broad regional reach, but the greatest volume is concentrated in the major metropolitan and fast-growing suburban school districts. This can help guide outreach, funding, provider recruitment and planning for before-school, after-school and school-age child care services.



Questions





Partner Updates



United Way





Updates

- Introduction of Audrey Rost
- Directors of Excellence

Pre-K for SA – Shared Service Alliance



Pre-K 4 SA: San Antonio Shared Services Alliance (SASSA)



SAN ANTONIO
Shared Services Alliance

Powered by Pre-K·4·SA

Operation Extended Watch

From Pilot to Scalable Model

- Successfully completed the pilot, with all five providers achieving MCCYN certification
- Established the operational infrastructure, partnership and coaching model
- Supported early morning, evening, and weekend extended-hours care models

Phase 1 Complete



- Expand from 5 providers to 10
- Shift focus from infrastructure development to filling available seats
- Integrate extended-hours care into the Alliance service model
- Develop an Implementation Playbook and Day-to-Night Continuity of Care Framework

Phase 2 Approved

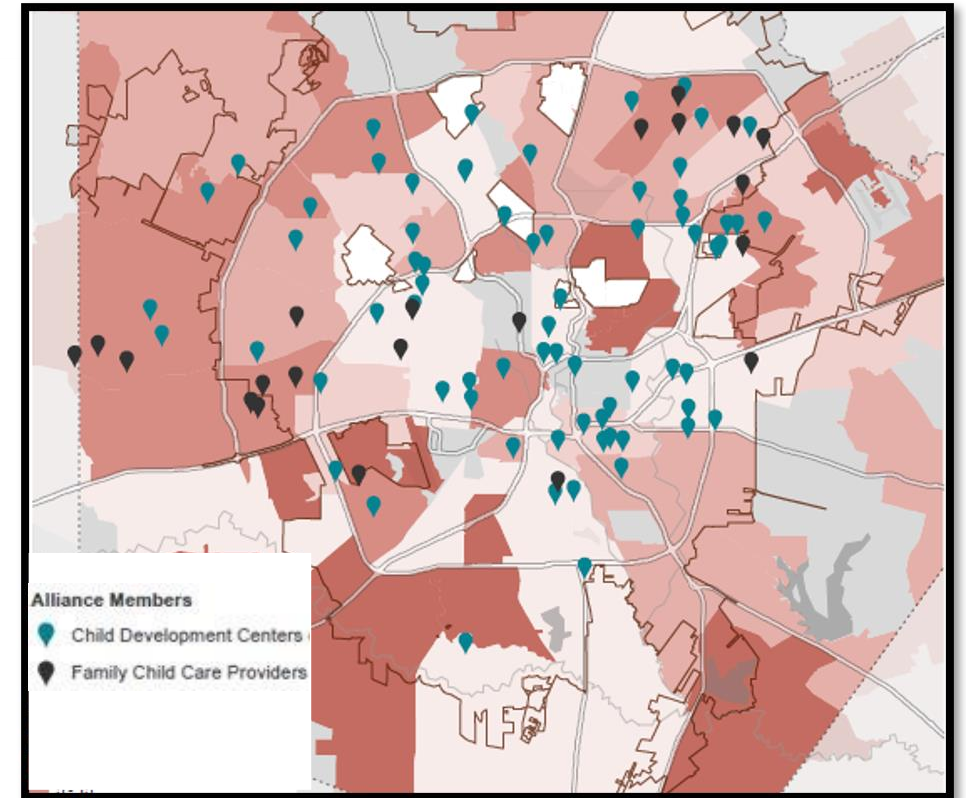


Alliance Expansion

Scaling Quality through SASSA

Three-Year Strategic Expansion

- Launch recruitment efforts SY 26-27
- Pilot framework enhancements with cohort of 10-15 new providers before full-scale expansion
- Prioritize recruitment in childcare quality deserts



Texas A&M University San Antonio – EDUCARE Updates



Early Matters – Updates





Early Matters

CLASS is an observation tool that measures the quality of educator–child interactions across three main domains:

- **Emotional Support** – warm, responsive relationships and a positive classroom climate
- **Classroom Organization** – behavior guidance, routines, and engagement in learning
- **Instructional Support** – interactions that build children’s thinking, language, and understanding



CLASS Pilot Project: How we got here

Building on what our community has already identified

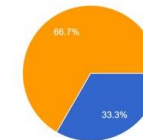
- Workgroup members identified workforce development, instructional quality, and provider support as shared priorities.
- A subgroup explored how CLASS could support both assessment and meaningful coaching.
- Surveys, interviews, and lessons from other regions helped shape a small pilot focused on learning before scaling.
- Following a competitive RFP process, *At the Heart of Learning and Leadership* was selected to lead the pilot.

Subgroup Partners:

Workforce Solutions Alamo
Madonna Center
COSA: Head Start
Pre-K 4 SA
Family Service Association
United Way of San Antonio and
Bexar County

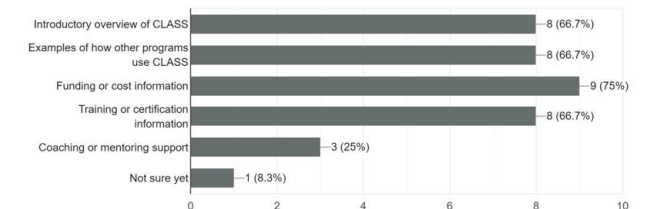
CLASS Survey Results

Would your program be interested in learning more about CLASS or related supports?
12 responses



• Yes
• No
• Maybe

What kind of information or support would be most helpful? (Select all that apply)
12 responses



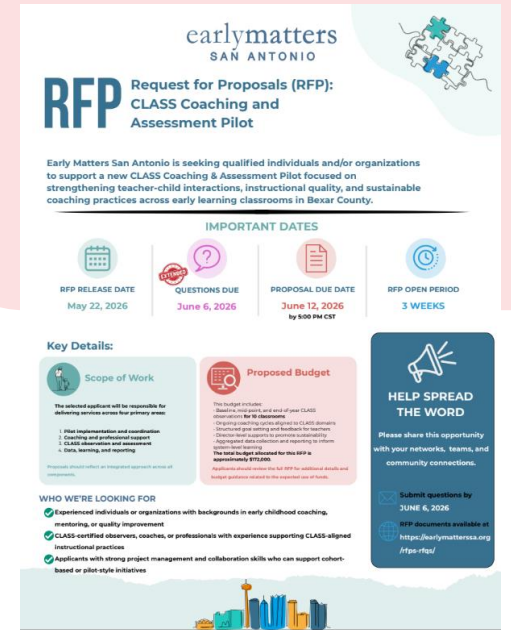
What the CLASS Pilot Is

A 12-month coaching and assessment pilot serving 15 early childhood classrooms

The pilot will include:

- Baseline, midpoint, and final CLASS observations
- At least monthly, on-site coaching
- Professional learning communities for educators and directors
- Full CDA credential support, including fees
- Teacher participation incentives, including monetary and materials supports
- Tools and resources to help directors sustain coaching practices

The goal is to create a supportive learning experience that strengthens educator practice, supports sustained behavior change, and generates data to inform future phases—not simply to assess classrooms.



Total Investment for Year 1: \$172,000

What We Hope to Learn

Using the pilot to inform what comes next

We hope to better understand:

- Whether targeted CLASS coaching helps centers improve scores connected to TRS classroom interactions
- Which coaching approaches, frequency, and supports lead to the strongest improvements
- What educators and center leaders need to participate successfully and sustain the work
- How pilot data, layered with existing community CLASS data, can identify broader quality-support needs
- Which supports are most effective at improving classroom interactions



The CLASS Pilot data will be added to the new Early Counts Data Hub

What's Next:

Continued Community-driven planning and implementation

Questions?
Ideas?



Moving Toward Launch

- Finalize the contract and implementation timeline
- Engage the subgroup in shaping participant priorities and the application process
 - Potential considerations include TRS 3-star status, location in a child care desert, recommendations from the community
- Explore alignment with mentors, coaches, and other partners already supporting centers to avoid duplication/confusion for participants
- Recruit participating centers and launch the pilot



Workgroup members and community partners are the driving force behind this work. Many thanks!



Questions





CEO Report

Adrian Lopez, CEO





Updates

- Flood Recovery Response
- Child Care Briefings



Chair Report

Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair;
Presented by Elizabeth Lutz





Questions



Thank you!

