

Texas School Ready!TM Eligibility and Application Procedures

Texas Education Code §29.161 requires the State Center for Early Childhood Development (State Center) to establish a school readiness certification program for early education and child care programs. Texas School Ready!TM certifies early education and child providers based on their demonstrated ability to prepare children for kindergarten.

Texas School Ready!TM Eligibility

Preschool classrooms eligible for Texas School Ready!TM are composed of children who will be attending kindergarten the following school year and include:

- licensed child care centers (for profit, nonprofit, and faith-based);
- school district and charter school prekindergarten; and
- Head Start.

Texas School Ready!TM Online Application Time Frame

- In the fall of each school year, eligible early childhood education providers begin to complete the Texas School Ready!TM application by setting up information on their classrooms, teachers, and children.
- In the spring:
 - eligible providers submit information about their instructional program for preschoolers; and
 - eligible preschool teachers complete a survey about their teaching practices.
- The following fall, the preschool children enter kindergarten and their kindergarten teachers enter reading and social screener scores.

Eligible child care providers and schools may apply online for Texas School Ready!TM certification at:

<http://www.childrenslearninginstitute.org/our-programs/program-overview/TX-school-ready/certification/apply-now.aspx>.

The online Texas School Ready!TM application collects information about the child care provider or school to determine eligibility for Texas School Ready!TM certification. The application collects information from the following four components:

- Preschool Student/School Report: type and amount of instruction and monthly student attendance
- Preschool Facility Report: staffing, curriculum, and professional development
- Preschool Teacher Report: teaching practices
- Kindergarten Reading and Social Screener Report: reading scores and social behavior for the children who were prepared for kindergarten

The Texas School Ready!TM certification application fee is \$200 for up to three classrooms. For each additional classroom, there is a \$100 fee.

Texas School Ready!TM certification is valid for one year. Therefore, certified providers must reapply every year.

Child care providers participating in the Texas Early Education Model (TEEM) do not need to submit a request to apply for Texas School Ready!TM certification. The State Center will provide TEEM providers with application information.

For more information about Texas School Ready!TM, please visit <http://www.childrenslearninginstitute.org/our-programs/program-overview/TX-school-ready/default.html>.