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The Texas Readiness Pack

Your numbers, your route, and who to call next.

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Know Your Numbers

Every call on the next page starts with these numbers. Fill this in first. Nothing else in this pack works until you can answer these without looking them up.

PART ONE: YOUR SEATS

A	Licensed capacity	
B	Children enrolled today	
C	Open seats. A minus B	
D	Children on your waitlist	

PART TWO: BY AGE GROUP

E	Threes enrolled	
F	Open seats for threes	
G	Fours enrolled	
H	Open seats for fours	

PART THREE: WHICH ROUTE YOU MEET

You must be licensed by and in good standing with the Department of Family and Protective Services. Then you need one of these five. Meet one, not all.

- [ ] Texas Rising Star, three stars or higher
- [ ] National accreditation
- [ ] Head Start program provider
- [ ] Texas School Ready participant
- [ ] An existing partnership with a district, outside this program

For three-year-old classrooms, meeting child care licensing standards is the only requirement.

If you tick none of them

National accreditation needs no subsidy contract, which matters if you take no subsidy today. Texas Rising Star is the other way in, and page 4 has the two steps that start it.

Texas Education Agency, Early Childhood Education FAQs, citing Texas Education Code §29.171(b).

illumine pulls capacity, enrollment and open seats into one view. Book a free session with an illumine expert.

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The Conversations

Three calls decide whether a partnership happens, and each one answers a different question. Fill in page 2 before you make any of them.

01 Your district

Ask who runs their prekindergarten partnerships, and whether they are adding seats next year. Give them your capacity, your open seats by age, and the route you meet. Then ask what a partnership with them has looked like for other providers.

Who I spoke to

What happens next

02 Your intermediary

From the 2027 to 2028 school year, a district must get a determination from a designated intermediary before it builds, repurposes or leases a prekindergarten classroom, and before it charges tuition for one. Introduce yourself before that starts, and ask what they want to see from a provider in your region.

Who I spoke to

What happens next

03 Your Texas Rising Star mentor

Your mentor is assigned by your local Workforce Development Board. Ask what separates your level from the next one, and what evidence they will want to see. If you are not in the program yet, page 4 has the two steps.

Who I spoke to

What happens next

Texas Education Code §29.153(g)(2) and §29.1531(c).

illumine keeps the numbers behind these calls current.
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Who To Call

Every address on this page is published by the state. None of them needs an introduction.

01 Your intermediary

ORGANIZATION	REGIONS	CONTACT
Child Care Associates	Regions 10 and 11	PreK@childcareassociates.org
Educational First Steps	Regions 10 and 11	prekpartnerships@educationalfirststeps.org
United Way for Greater Austin	Region 13	ELAC@uwatx.org
Neighborhood Schools	Regions 4, 5 and 6	Via the Texas Education Agency form
Texas A&M University System	All regions	prekintermediary@tamus.edu

More intermediaries may be added each year.

02 The Texas Workforce Commission

prekpartnerships@twc.texas.gov is the front door, both for the partnership and for the funding award. If you built a partnership without them, email anyway and they will tell you whether you still qualify. The award is up to $25,000 for each new partnership classroom, and $13,250 for a licensed child care home. Applications open 1 September and close 15 January. You need Three or Four Star certification, a signed partnership with a district rated C or better, a new classroom running with dually enrolled children, and attendance at a funding information session. That session is by invitation only, so the email above is how you get on the list.

03 Texas Rising Star

Two steps, in order. Complete the orientation, either self-paced on CLI Engage or live with your local Texas Rising Star staff. Then complete the Texas Rising Star Interest Form. It goes to your local Workforce Development Board, and the Board assigns your mentor.

Worth downloading

The Pre-K Partnership Financial Forecasting Template, published by the Texas Workforce Commission, models what a partnership does to your revenue before you commit to one.

Texas Workforce Commission and Texas Education Agency, November 2026.

illumine shows subsidy and private-pay children side by side. Book a free session with an illumine expert.

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Your Next Thirty Days

Pick one and put a date next to it.

DAYS 1 TO 10

Fill in page 2.

Capacity, enrollment, open seats by age, waitlist. Every call on page 3 turns on those four numbers, and none of them should take ten minutes to find.

DAYS 11 TO 20

Email the Texas Workforce Commission.

One email to prekpartnerships@twc.texas.gov puts you in front of the team that runs partnerships and the funding award. Applications close 15 January, so this is the one with a clock on it.

DAYS 21 TO 30

Start the conversations.

Your district, your intermediary, your Texas Rising Star mentor. Three calls, and page 3 has what to ask in each.

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