

Early Childhood Education



LONESTAR**RP3**

Session Objectives

1. Share new tools that may be of immediate use to our network
2. Inform and shape LONESTARP3 strategic direction



Objective 1

Share preview of the Early Childhood Education landscape analysis – a new tool for immediate use



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New Tool

Landscape Analysis



bit.ly/4qQxnF5



Early Childhood Education in Texas
Preview of Landscape Analysis
RP3 February 2026: Convening

Purpose of this Preview

This preview is intended to orient Convening participants to the scope and structure of the early childhood education landscape analysis while the full analysis remains under development. The sections presented below will be treated more fully in the final report and complemented with data highlights. The final analysis will also include an Executive Summary, as well as a section—Looking Ahead—that synthesizes key opportunities and lesson points across the early childhood education ecosystem.

Introduction

Texas's early childhood workforce, serving children from birth through age five, faces persistent challenges related to low compensation, high demand, and limited career advancement. These conditions contribute to ongoing recruitment and retention issues that affect program stability, quality, and access, with particular variation across regions and communities.

Program access, quality, and family engagement are also central features of the current early childhood education landscape. Recent state legislation has focused on expanding high-quality, full-day pre-K, strengthening early literacy supports, and improving alignment between pre-K and the early elementary grades.

Additional efforts emphasize coordination across systems and agencies, creating a complex policy environment shaping how early learning programs are delivered and experienced by families. Relatively new efforts to link information across agencies, serving children from birth through early elementary grades reflect growing interest in understanding access, quality, and outcomes over time.

Purpose of the Landscape Analysis

We developed this landscape analysis of early childhood education in Texas to identify critical issues, potential products, and opportunities for LONESTAR P3.

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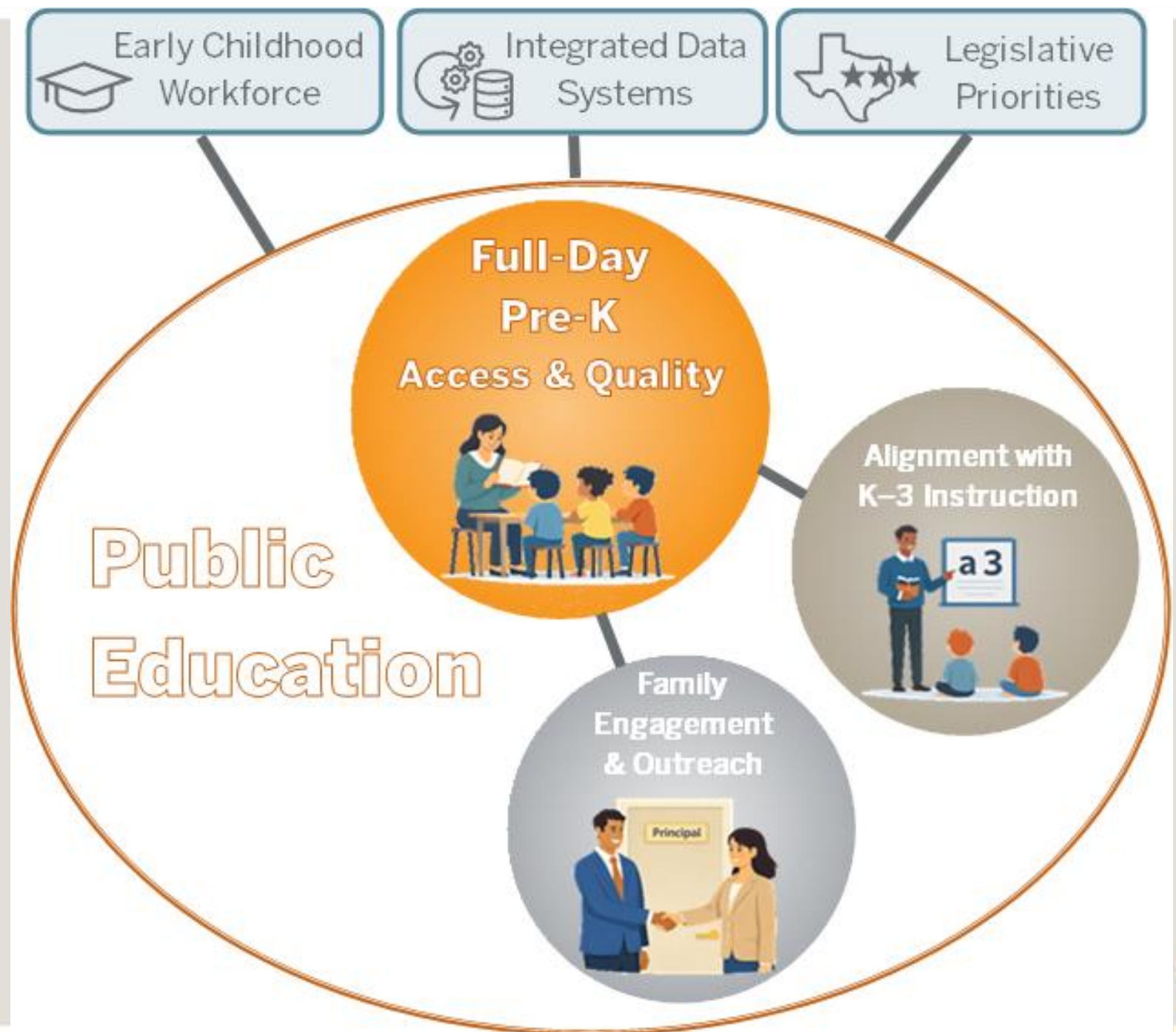
Purpose

To identify critical issues, potential products, and opportunities for LONESTAR P3 collaborative research.

Provides a broad overview of key trends, topics, and actors shaping Early Childhood Education in Texas.



Scope and structure of ECE landscape analysis falls within public education





New Tool

Landscape Analysis

Issues

1. Access and Quality
2. Data, System Governance and Strategic Coordination
3. Affordability and Financial Assistance
4. Early Educator Workforce Challenges
5. Early Educator Workforce Development and Support
6. Funding and Finance
7. Family Engagement and Outreach

Objective 2

Collect your ideas and feedback to inform and shape the Early Childhood Education research framework



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Inform & Shape

Information Gathering

We will use multiple methods to capture your insights

1. Group discussion → Make meaning of the Texas landscape with your table mates
2. Designated recorder → capture table convo on note template
3. Offer insights for research questions → submit input in Google doc



Inform & Shape Group Discussion

PROMPTS

- How important is additional research on the themes below for informing actions and improving outcomes **in TEXAS?**
- How important is additional research on the themes below for informing actions and improving outcomes in your **local or reginal context?**
- Which themes are **most important? Least important? Not important at all?**



Inform

Strategy Team Process

Generate Protocol

This **three-part protocol** engages participants from different roles and sectors, with varied expertise and lived experience, and from diverse geographic regions and densities in a **collaborative process to generate shared priority research questions**.

GENERATE

Surface a wide range of issues or questions

CATEGORIZE

Clarify issues and questions that were revealed; Categorize them into related themes

REFINE

Identify priority questions; Organize them into broad themes with supporting ideas



Inform & Shape Individual Insights

Please share your thoughts or areas where research may be needed. Enter the in the **GENERATE AND CATEGORIZE** box of the linked Google doc.

Your insights will provide additional inputs for our Strategy Team to consider as they work through our structured protocol to generate our initial research agenda.

We value your partnership in helping us set the direction for future research efforts.



bit.ly/4s6yh00



Next Steps

For each topic

- Feedback cycles from members and key constituents
- Revise and refine research framework
- Release consensus agenda

Across all three topics

- Assess opportunities for launching research collaboratives
- Gain support and momentum for research at the 2026 Success Summit in Dec 2026



Acknowledgement: Strategy Team Members

Contributors	Organization
Barbara Boneta	United Way of Greater Austin
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Margaret Quinn	Texas A&M University
Monica Romero	The University of Texas at Austin
Courtney Thrash	Houston Education Research Consortium
TBD	Texas Education Agency
TBD	Texas Workforce Commission

ECE strategy team will
meet March 12



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Breakouts and Transitions

ROUND ONE	ROUND TWO	TEAM TIME	SHARE OUT
Translation: Research, Practice, and Policy Application: CCMR Tools for Research & Practice Exploration: Prospective Members Session	Texas Teacher Workforce Public Education Finance Early Childhood Education	Staff Actions Partner Preparations Summit Suggestions	Google Slides THREE Minutes MAX!
8:45	10:15	12:15	1:15

YOU
ARE
HERE

10:00

BREAK

10:30

11:30

LUNCH

12:00

BREAK

Steering Committee
Moody Conference Room

Thank You

Look for updates on
Early Childhood Education in Texas during
our April Connect Virtual Session!



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