

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PRIORITY RESEARCH QUESTIONS

STRAND 1: ACCESS AND ENROLLMENT

What influences families' ability to access and enroll their children in public pre-K?

Supporting Research Questions

- How do pre-K eligibility and enrollment patterns compare across regions, communities, and populations?
- Why do some eligible families enroll their children in pre-K while others do not?
- Which outreach and engagement strategies help connect eligible families to available pre-K programs?

STRAND 2: QUALITY AND OUTCOMES

What makes pre-K effective for children and what benefits extend over time?

Supporting Research Questions

- What developmental and educational outcomes are associated with participation in pre-K programs?
 - What factors help sustain positive outcomes through later grades?
- What characteristics of pre-K programs contribute to positive experiences and lasting outcomes for children?
 - How do these characteristics vary across geographic areas, program settings, and student populations?

STRAND 3: DATA AND MEASUREMENT

What information and measures can help us better understand how well early childhood education is working?

Supporting Research Questions

- What early childhood data are available in Texas, and how are they being used to inform decisions and improve programs?
 - What limits the effective use of data across early childhood settings and agencies?
 - What additional data or connections across data systems would strengthen understanding of access, quality, and outcomes?
- How well do existing measures of early childhood education quality capture the program elements that matter most for children?
- How well do current screening and assessment tools capture differences in children's development, skills, and needs?