

# PLEASE OPPOSE HB 2729

## Lowering Pre-K Teacher Qualification Does Not Solve the Problem

HB 2729 rolls back multi-year efforts by Gov. Abbott and the Texas Legislature to Increase Pre-K Quality

*Low compensation of early childhood educators and inadequate prekindergarten funding are driving teacher shortages in child care programs and school districts. Removing teacher certification requirements will not address these issues and will undermine the importance of high-quality early learning.*

### HB 2729 would allow an 18-year-old with minimal training to teach prekindergarten

As reported out of committee, teachers in prekindergarten partnerships would no longer have to be certified or hold a bachelor's degree. At minimum, they would need to be 18-years-old with minimal training to serve as a prekindergarten teachers in a partnership classroom. This is not good for children, teachers, or child care programs.

Lowering prekindergarten teacher qualifications may:

- **Create less interest from school districts to enter prekindergarten partnerships and/or result in less funding to partnership sites from school districts**
- **Provide at-risk children, including those who are from very low-income households, been in foster care, or been homeless, with less qualified teachers**
- **Deepen pay disparities between teachers in child care programs and public schools**
- **Lower quality ratings of Texas' prekindergarten program by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER)**

### HB 2729 would reverse the years of work that Gov. Abbott and the Legislature have done to increase the quality of Pre-K in Texas

- During his first term, Governor Greg Abbott named early childhood education as his first emergency priority for the legislature to address during the 84th Legislative Session which resulted in HB4 by Rep. Huberty.
- HB4 introduced the high-quality prekindergarten requirements which strengthened the qualifications educators were required to possess in order to teach prekindergarten. These high-quality requirements were further affirmed during the 86th Legislative Session with the passage of HB3.
- To address the teacher shortage in Texas, Governor Abbott established the Teacher Vacancy Task Force. The final report from the Task Force states, "...the highest-leverage opportunities to reduce teacher vacancies include increasing compensation, providing quality training and support, and improving working conditions for teachers."<sup>1</sup> The task force recognizes the challenging job of teaching and outlines comprehensive recommendations, none of which come close to suggesting that reducing qualifications will support the pipeline of teachers.

---

For additional information, please contact:

Cody Summerville, Texas Association for the Education of Young Children, [cody@texasaeyc.org](mailto:cody@texasaeyc.org)  
David Feigen, Texans Care for Children, [dfeige@txchildren.org](mailto:dfeige@txchildren.org)  
Kim Kofron, Children at Risk, [kkofron@childrenatrisk.org](mailto:kkofron@childrenatrisk.org)

# PLEASE OPPOSE HB 2729

## Lowering Pre-K Teacher Qualification Does Not Solve the Problem

HB 2729 rolls back multi-year efforts by Gov. Abbott and the Texas Legislature to Increase Pre-K Quality

