

# LEA and IHE Early Childhood Landscape Analysis

## Introduction

The Preschool Development Grant Birth through 5 (PDG B-5) is federal funding administered by the Administration for Children and Families to help states support early childhood services, improved collaboration among early childhood programs, and a mixed service delivery system that includes child care, Head Start, prekindergarten and home visiting. The federal government awarded the state of Texas a three-year grant, for \$16 million a year, through PDG B-5, from January 2023 through December 2025.

As part of the PDG B-5 work, Texas is supporting improvements to help build a robust early childhood workforce pipeline with the following goals: (1) increase the number of teachers in early learning classrooms; (2) reduce the educator turnover rates with ECCE programs; (3) create clear pathways from a child care classroom, early childhood certificate, or college degree into an early childhood career; and (4) provide reliable supports for individuals navigating those pathways. Texas agencies are working together to build a pipeline of qualified early childhood professionals through multiple pathways into child care and public schools with opportunities to grow their education/careers into other early childhood fields. The Workforce Pipeline includes an Early Childhood Landscape Analysis, support for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs of study in high schools, career pathway information for high school students, support to help IHEs develop or expand clear pathways for early childhood professionals, scholarships for high school students and early educators, and Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs).

To understand the variation in early childhood training programs and degrees and to identify opportunities in key areas, the PDG B-5 Workforce Pipeline work began with an Early Childhood Landscape Analysis of Early Learning CTE Programs of Study in high schools, two-year and four-year institutions of higher education (IHEs) with early childhood degrees and certificates, and RAPs. The service areas for each LEA, two-year IHE, and RAP were mapped by county, Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA), and Child Care Desert Zip Code Tabulation Area. There are four-year IHEs offering early learning bachelor's degrees and certificates, but, as these IHEs have a statewide, national, or international service area, they are included for reference but are not assigned to a specific county.<sup>1</sup> One piece of information the Landscape Analysis was unable to capture was existing pathways and agreements that grant credit for previous learning through articulation, transfer, or competency exam or for work experience. There is no central, statewide directory of such pathways and agreements, and IHEs vary in how or if they publicly share information on the requirements and process for gaining credit towards an associate or bachelor's degree.

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<sup>1</sup> See "EC Degrees\_Details" sheet

To create the Landscape Analysis, TWC worked with public data from Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC), as well as data compiled by the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children (TXAEOYC) (Table 1).<sup>2</sup>

**Table 1. Landscape Analysis Data Sources**

<b>Data Type</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Assumptions and Other Notes</b>
<b>Early Learning Program of Study CTE</b>	TEA: Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) Data	To be considered a county with an Early Learning Program of Study, the county must have an LEA with at least three courses and that offers a Level 3 or 4 Early Learning course.
<b>School District Counties</b>	TEA: <a href="https://tealprod.tea.state.tx.us/tea.askted.web/Forms/Home.aspx">https://tealprod.tea.state.tx.us/tea.askted.web/Forms/Home.aspx</a>	County service areas for LEAs are based on the headquarters for the LEA, although some students could reside in a different county.
<b>Early Childhood Degrees and Certificates in Texas</b>	TXAEOYC: <a href="https://texasaeoyc.org/program-resources/t-e-a-c-h/resources/college-university-directory/">https://texasaeoyc.org/program-resources/t-e-a-c-h/resources/college-university-directory/</a>	IHEs with early childhood degrees and certificates were identified by TXAEOYC in January 2023 and matched to corresponding service area information using the two-year IHEs service areas from TACC.
<b>Community College Service Areas</b>	TACC: <a href="https://tacc.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/21r0305_junior_college_service_areas_8.5x14.pdf">https://tacc.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/21r0305_junior_college_service_areas_8.5x14.pdf</a>	Data from TACC noting the county service areas for two-year IHEs. These data were used to match service areas for the two-year IHEs listed by TXAEOYC in their January 2023 report on Early Childhood Degrees and Certificates in Texas.
<b>TWC-Funded RAPs</b>	TWC: <a href="https://www.twc.texas.gov/news/twc-awards-grants-create-child-care-talent-pipeline-">https://www.twc.texas.gov/news/twc-awards-grants-create-child-care-talent-pipeline-</a>	

<sup>2</sup> See “Sources and Assumptions” sheet

	<a href="#">through-apprenticeship-programs</a>	
<b>2023 Child Care Deserts</b>	TWC: <a href="https://www.twc.texas.gov/sites/default/files/ccel/docs/child-care-desert-by-zip-code-twc.xlsx">https://www.twc.texas.gov/sites/default/files/ccel/docs/child-care-desert-by-zip-code-twc.xlsx</a>	
<b>TWC Local Workforce Development Boards</b>	TWC: <a href="https://www.twc.texas.gov/agency/workforce-development-boards">https://www.twc.texas.gov/agency/workforce-development-boards</a>	

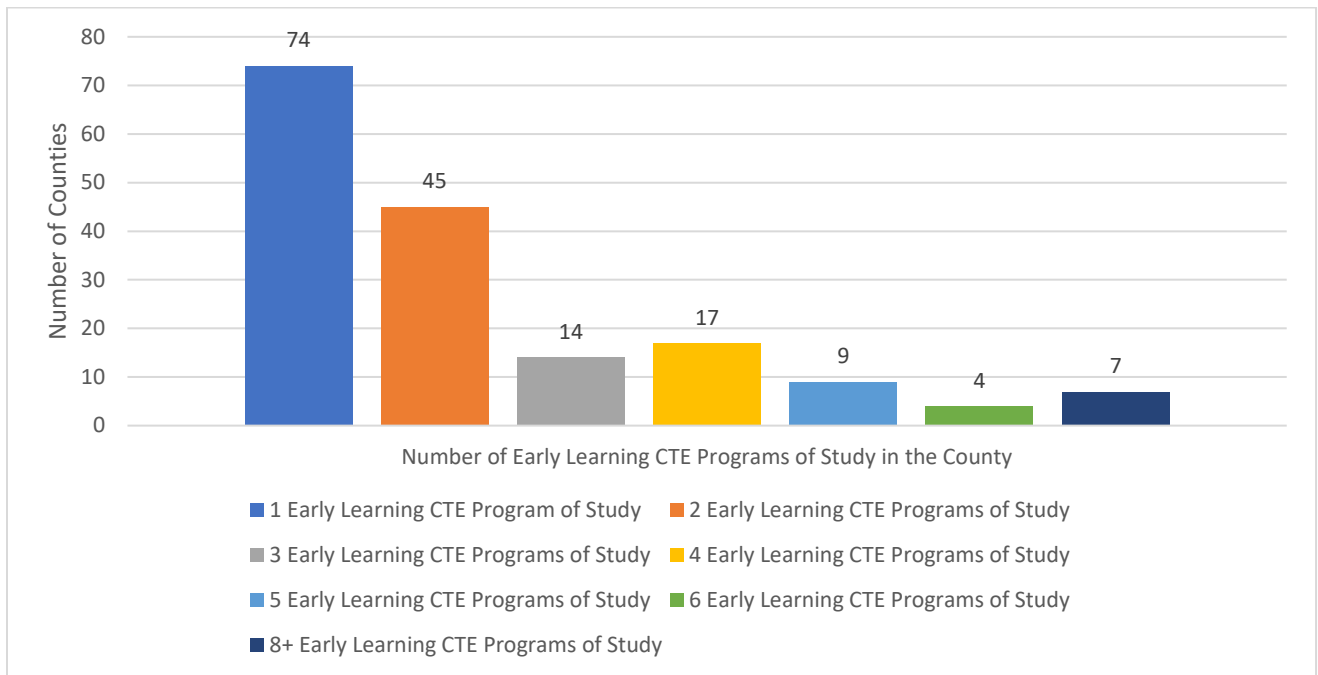
Early Learning CTE Programs of Study

Schools can leverage Early Learning CTE Programs of Study to help high school students earn a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and/or dual credit toward an early childhood degree before graduation. There are 420 school districts in Texas that offer an Early Learning CTE Program of Study. There are 170 counties with at least one school district that offers an Early Learning CTE Program of Study that include at least three courses and at least one Level 3 or 4 course.<sup>3</sup> These parameters provide the opportunity for high school students to be CTE completers and to participate in a practicum working in an early childhood classroom. The majority of the 170 counties have one or two school districts that offer an Early Learning CTE Program of Study, but some counties have a large number of school districts with Early Learning Programs of Study (Chart 1).

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<sup>3</sup> See “Highlights by County” sheet

**Chart 1. Number of school districts with an Early Learning CTE Program of Study per County**



### Institutes of Higher Education

There are 62 two-year IHEs that offer an early childhood degree or certificate in-person and/or online in 151 counties. Of those IHEs, 37 offer at least one degree or certificate online.<sup>4</sup> Early childhood degrees include a range of offerings such as: Associate of Applied Science in Child Development, Associate of Applied Science in Child Development and Early Childhood, Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education, and Associate of Applied Science in Childcare and Development.

### Intersections of Early Learning CTE Programs of Study and IHEs with Early Childhood Degrees and Certificates

Of the 170 counties with school districts that offer an Early Learning CTE Program of Study, 131 counties also have at least 1 two-year IHE that offers an early childhood degrees or certificate.

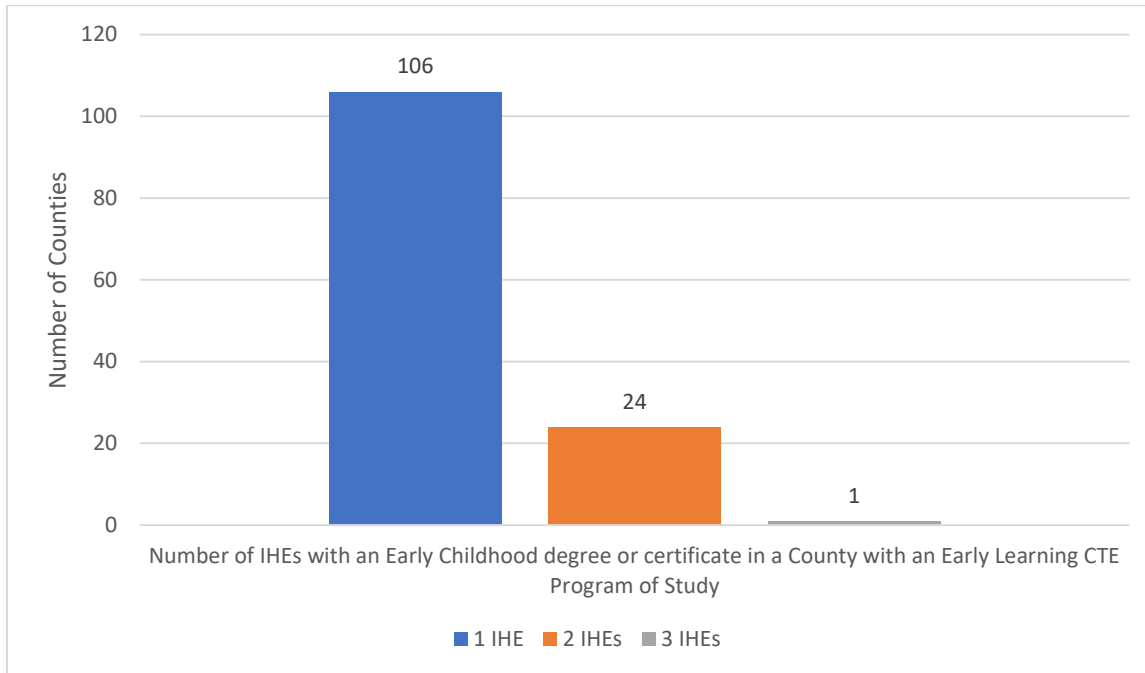
- Of those, 106 counties have one two-year IHE, 24 counties have two IHEs and 1 county has three IHEs (Chart 2).
- Ten of the counties with both an Early Learning CTE Program of Study and an IHE with an early childhood degree or certificate have at least one zip code that is a child care desert.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> See “EC Degrees\_Details” sheet

<sup>5</sup> See “Highlights by County” sheet

There are 20 counties with two-year IHEs offering early childhood degrees and certificates that do not have an Early Learning CTE Program of Study.<sup>6</sup>

**Chart 2. Number of IHEs with an Early Childhood degree or certificate per County with an Early Learning CTE Program of Study**



### TWC and LWDB Information

Table 4 provides an overview of the number of CTE and two-year IHE early childhood offerings in each LWDB and how many counties have overlapping CTE and IHE offerings. The table also identifies the number of counties where there is an opportunity to develop early childhood degree pathways because there is both a school district with an Early Learning CTE Program of Study and an IHE with an early childhood degree or certificate.<sup>7</sup>

Outside of PDG B-5, TWC is currently using Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) block grant funding to invest in RAPs through planning and implementation grants. TWC is currently funding grantees to create new or expand existing RAPs in nine counties: Austin, Bosque, Brazoria, Cameron, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Falls, Freestone, Hidalgo, and Starr.

<sup>6</sup> See “Highlights by County” sheet

<sup>7</sup> See “Highlights by County” sheet

**Table 4. Early Childhood Offerings by Local Workforce Development Board**

<b>Local Workforce Development Board</b>	<b>School Districts with an Early Learning CTE Program of Study</b>	<b>IHEs with an Early Childhood degree or certificate</b>	<b>Number of Counties with both a School District with an Early Learning CTE Program of Study AND an IHE with an Early Childhood degree or certificate</b>	<b>Number of Counties WITHOUT a School District with an Early Learning CTE Program of Study but WITH an IHE with an Early Childhood degree or certificate</b>
Alamo	22	6	22	1
Borderplex	5	1	5	1
Brazos Valley	10	3	10	1
Cameron	3	1	3	0
Capital Area	6	2	6	0
Central Texas	9	3	9	1
Coastal Bend	10	2	10	4
Concho Valley	6	1	6	1
Dallas County	12	1	12	0
Deep East Texas	27	1	27	1
East Texas	31	4	31	0
Golden Crescent	7	1	7	0
Gulf Coast	49	8	49	0
Heart of Texas	7	2	7	1
Lower Rio Grande Valley	10	1	10	0
Middle Rio Grande	5	1	5	0
North Central Texas	43	7	43	0
North Texas	13	4	13	0
Northeast Texas	19	1	19	0
Panhandle	18	1	18	5
Permian Basin	0	3	0	0
Rural Capital Area	15	4	15	3
South Plains	20	1	20	0
South Texas	2	1	2	0
Southeast Texas	13	1	13	0
Tarrant County	12	1	12	0
Texoma	14	3	14	0
West Central Texas	22	3	22	1

## Next Steps

The landscape analysis will serve as a resource to connect existing early childhood programs at different points of the workforce pipeline as part of ongoing PDG B-5 work. TWC and TEA are working to help CTE Programs of Study establish partnerships with high-quality, Texas Rising Star-certified child care programs so high schoolers can participate in work-based learning in a quality child care setting. TWC and TEA are also working with Educate Texas to hold informational articulation work sessions in Quarter 1 of 2024. The landscape analysis information will inform the invitation list for these work sessions.

In addition to informing the PDG B-5 work at the state level, LWDBs can use the landscape analysis as they create plans for their child care quality dollars and professional development supports.