

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
Workforce Development Letter

ID/No:	WD 18-24
Date:	October 31, 2024
Keyword:	Child Care
Effective:	Immediately

To: Local Workforce Development Board Executive Directors
Commission Executive Offices
Integrated Service Area Managers

From: Reagan Miller, Director, Child Care & Early Learning Division

Subject: **Connecting Local Educational Agencies with High-Quality Early Learning Programs**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this WD Letter is to provide Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) guidance on connecting Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) with high-quality Early Learning programs that may serve as placement sites for high school students to gain Career and Technical Education (CTE) early childhood work experience.

RESCISSIONS:

None

BACKGROUND:

Texas received funding through the Preschool Development Grant Birth through 5 (PDG B-5) to complete work on initiatives that includes building a robust early childhood workforce pipeline or Early Childhood Educator Pathways model.

Additionally, the Early Childhood Educator Pathways model offers supports for Early Learning CTE programs of study in high schools that may offer students the opportunity to gain work experience in an early childhood classroom. High school student workers may count toward the Child Care Regulation child care ratios, as outlined in the Child Care Minimum Standards.

PROCEDURES:

No Local Flexibility (NLF): This rating indicates that Boards must comply with the federal and state laws, rules, policies, and required procedures set forth in this WD Letter and have no local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to comply. All information with an NLF rating is indicated by “must.”

Local Flexibility (LF): This rating indicates that Boards have local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to implement guidance or recommended practices set forth in this WD Letter. All information with an LF rating is indicated by “may” or “recommend.”

NLF: Boards must, at least twice a year, provide LEAs offering Early Learning CTE programs of study in their local workforce development area (Board area) with a list of Texas Rising Star Three- and Four-Star child care and Early Learning programs operating in the Board area.

LF: Boards may use the [landscape analysis](#) developed by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and the Texas Education Agency to identify LEAs offering Early Learning CTE programs of study.

LF: Boards may use the following language to share Texas Rising Star lists with LEAs:

“Early childhood education (ECE) is a robust field full of diverse career opportunities. Early Learning Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs of study can help high school students start a career in ECE. Early Learning CTE programs of study may offer high school students work experience opportunities in an early childhood classroom.

To find high-quality child care centers where students can gain work experience hours, schools can use Texas Rising Star ratings (Texas’ quality rating and improvement system) to identify Three- and Four-Star Early Learning programs. Attached is a list of Three- and Four-Star certified Texas Rising Star programs in the [BOARD NAME] area.

Local Education Agencies can use the [Earning a Child Development Associate \(CDA\) Through Career and Technical Education \(CTE\)](#) resource to learn more about preparing high school students for a career in early childhood education.”

INQUIRIES:

Send inquiries regarding this WD Letter to childcare.programassistance@twc.texas.gov.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

REFERENCES:

[Early Childhood Education Landscape Analysis](#)
[Earning a Child Development Associate \(CDA\) Through Career and Technical Education \(CTE\)](#)