



Early Childhood & the 88th Legislative Session

88th Legislative Session Recap

October 2023



Agenda

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Opportunities & Challenges

The 2023 legislative session presented a rare opportunity. Legislators on both sides of the aisle vowed that children, moms, and families will be a priority, and the state was flushed with surplus revenue to invest.

However, there were also challenges:

- Growing political polarization (Ds vs. Rs, House vs. Senate, Governor vs. Lege)
- Controversial topics receiving a lot of attention
- Fierce competition for bandwidth, resources
- Significant legislator and staff turnover

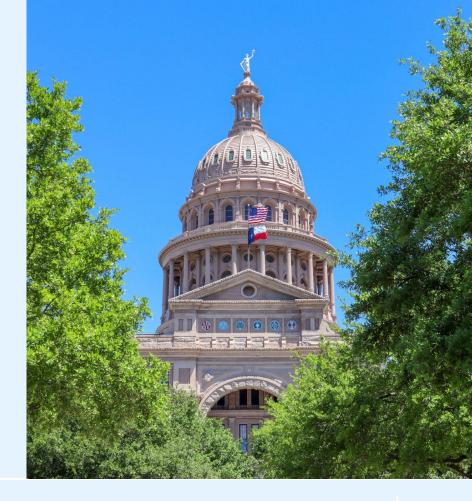






Early Education Legislative Priorities

- Bedrock child care funding
- Local workforce board reforms
- Expand pre-k partnerships
- Increase state pre-k funding





Early Education Legislative Summary

Despite a few modest steps forward, there was very little done to address children's early learning needs this session. The Legislature did pass:

- HB 16 15 by Rep. Button: **Supporting pre -k partnerships**
- SB 1145 by Sen. West: Child care subsidy property tax exemption ballot proposition (Proposition 2)
- SB 1327 by Sen. Blanco: Streamlining child care director training process

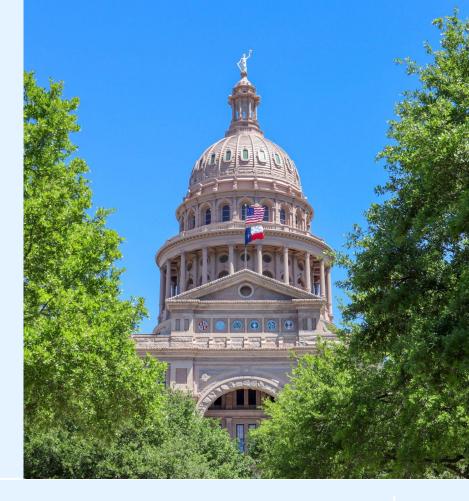






Early Intervention & Prevention Legislative Priorities

- Increase state investments in Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)
- Support child abuse prevention services, including home visiting
- Provide funding for Child First in Texas





Early Intervention and Prevention Legislative Summary

This session, the Legislature made meaningful progress in supporting child abuse prevention and access to early childhood intervention. for adults and older youth and helping keep kids out of foster care.

- Budget: \$63 million **increase** to support Early Childhood Intervention
- Budget: \$65 million **increase** in abuse prevention services







Health Coverage Legislative Priorities

- Expand Medicaid for adults under the poverty line
- Extend postpartum Medicaid coverage for new moms
- Create an "express lane option" to improve access to Medicaid and CHIP health insurance for children who are already eligible but uninsured.





Health Coverage Legislative Summary

After Texas advocates and lawmakers spent three legislative sessions pushing to extend mothers' Medicaid coverage to 12 months after pregnancy, the Legislature finally passed this critical bill during the 2023 session.

• HB 12 by Rep. Rose: Allows moms to continue using Medicaid health insurance for a full year after pregnancy uninterrupted.



Next Steps



Next Steps

- Bill implementation
- Special Session Underway
- Proposition 2 on November's ballot
- Developing focused research and advocacy strategies
- Building a renewed policy agenda for the 89th Legislative Session



Questions?



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Thank you!

