

Teacher Qualifications

A high-quality prekindergarten program must ensure that each teacher of a high-quality prekindergarten program class is appropriately certified under TEC, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, and has one of the following additional qualifications:

- a) A Child Development Associate (CDA) credential
- b) A certification offered through a training center accredited by Association Montessori Internationale or through the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education
- c) At least eight years of experience teaching in a nationally-accredited child care program
- d) A graduate or undergraduate degree in early childhood education or early childhood special education or a non-early childhood education undergraduate degree with a documented minimum of 30 hours of coursework in early childhood education
- e) Documented completion of the Texas School Ready Training Program (TSR Comprehensive)
- f) Employment as a prekindergarten teacher in a school district or charter that has ensured that:
 - i. prior to assignment in a prekindergarten class, teachers who provide prekindergarten instruction have completed at least 150 cumulative hours of documented professional development addressing the 2015 Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines in addition to other relevant topics related to high-quality prekindergarten over a consecutive five-year period;
 - ii. teachers who have not completed training required in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph prior to assignment in a prekindergarten class shall complete:
 1. the first 30 hours of 150 cumulative hours of documented professional development before the end of the school year. The professional development shall address topics relevant to high-quality prekindergarten including but not limited to:
 - a) the Revised 2015 Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines,
 - b) the use of student progress monitoring results to inform classroom instruction,
 - c) improving the prekindergarten classroom environment to enhance student outcomes,
 - d) improving the effectiveness of teacher interaction with students as determined by an evaluation tool and
 2. the additional hours in the subsequent four years in order to continue providing instruction in a high-quality prekindergarten classroom; and
 - iii. at least half of the hours required by subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of this paragraph shall include experiential learning, practical application, and direct interaction with specialists in early childhood education, mentors or instructional coaches. (TAC §102.1003.(e))

Tools and Resources

The Children's Learning Institute provides a suite ([CLI Engage](#)) of web-based teacher professional development tools that are free to Texas public schools and charters.

The Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System ([TECPDS](#)) website provides information on available resources to assist early childhood professionals in meeting their professional development needs. Some of the key resources available are the Texas Core Competencies for Administrators and Practitioners which include online training modules.

The twenty Education Service Centers ([ESCs](#)) across the state of Texas provide professional development trainings and workshops on the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines, Classroom Instruction, Learning Centers, Classroom Management, Family/Community Engagement, PPCD/Inclusive Classrooms, New Teacher Training and additional early childhood professional development topics. It is recommended that you contact your ESC for a training calendar and potential availability.

The Office of Early Childhood Education team is available to provide guidance on implementation of high-quality prekindergarten. Please do not hesitate to contact anyone on the team.

| Name | Email | Area of Specialty |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Jacquie Porter | Jacquie.Porter@tea.texas.gov | Director |
| Scott Bodnar | Scott.Bodnar@tea.texas.gov | ECE Manager |
| Howard Morrison | Howard.Morrison@tea.texas.gov | PreK Eligibility, Data/Reports and Laws and Regulations |
| Tamala Olsby | Tamala.Olsby@tea.texas.gov | High-Quality PreK Programs |
| Anna Gu | Anna.Gu@tea.texas.gov | Prekindergarten Private Provider Partnerships |