



## 2010 Legislative Priorities

**The Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region encourages the legislature to fully fund early learning programs because of the 856,634 children eligible for School Readiness services in 2008-2009, only 247,349 children (less than 30%) received services due to funding limitations.**

The Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region requests that:

- \$37M in General Revenue must be reinstated to maintain services to the children currently participating in School Readiness;
- \$38M is required to replace non-recurring federal funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act utilized in 2009-2010 for the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program;
- \$17.8M must be added to address 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 deficits and maintain services to the children currently participating in the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program; and
- \$22M must be added to address anticipated growth in the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program.

Additionally, the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region encourages the development of unified and efficient early learning systems by;

- Creating a unified early care and education system with efficiencies in staffing, infrastructure, and resources across the three State agencies;
- Supporting a seamless early care and education system that simplifies access for parents; and
- Establishing one accountability system statewide that will ease confusion regarding State approved standards and clearly defines entities responsible for compliance issues.