



Central Texas Education Funders Indicators for Early Ed Programs

Central Texas Education Funders (CTEF) is a learning and networking organization dedicated to informing local funders about current education issues and grantmaking in Central Texas. In order to advance its overall mission of supporting and expanding effective programs, streamlining the application and reporting processes for nonprofits, and increasing the level of investment in education, CTEF has developed a menu of common education outcomes and indicators for high-investment areas in our region.

It is CTEF's hope that the *Common Education Outcomes and Indicators Project* will provide guidance and context to help non-profits, funders and the community better align their efforts to achieve the best possible educational outcomes for Central Texans by:

- ❖ Supporting **non-profits** to become more efficient and effective in their programming and assessment of key education goals and metrics, as well as streamlining the reporting process for nonprofits;
- ❖ Developing a consensus of outcomes and indicators among **funders**, and openly sharing and building upon these concepts to encourage best practices in education grantmaking; and
- ❖ Educating **community** stakeholders about common education indicators through outreach and advocacy, with the ultimate goal of improving student achievement in Central Texas.

The indicators that we have provided below are not an all-inclusive list and are not required by CTEF. They are, rather, designed to serve as a menu of options. This list of suggested indicators was compiled from various resources, listed below, as well as from evaluation reports of local nonprofits, and vetted in a series of meetings with local nonprofits and education funders.

It is recommended that in addition to these indicators, funders also take into consideration other aspects of a program such as the organization's mission, primary and secondary services offered, target populations served and the requirements for participation.

References and Additional Resources:

- [United Way for Greater Austin: School Readiness Action Plan \(SRAP\);](#)
 - Update: [Success By 6 Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)
- [E3 Alliance: Ready, Set, K!](#)
 - For specific competencies in four domains (social emotional, language & communication, emergent literacy and mathematics)
- [KIDS COUNT: National School Readiness Indicators Initiative](#)
- [Center for American Progress](#)

Menu of Indicators, Age 0-5 education programs

*Note: Most indicators below are for specific programs. Community-level indicators are also important to consider.
(See resource section for sources and links to examples of these higher-level outcomes measures)*

Ready Children

% of children with age-appropriate fine motor skills

% of children who often or very often exhibit positive social behaviors when interacting with their peers

% of children able to follow age-appropriate directions

% of children recognizing the relationship between letters and sounds at kindergarten entry

% of children recognizing basic shapes at kindergarten entry

% of children who enter kindergarten school ready*

% of children living in low-income families who enter kindergarten school ready*

Ready Families

and % of parents receiving research- or evidence-based parent education services

and % of parents receiving home visiting services

% of births to mothers with less than a 12th grade education

and % of parents engaged in child's development (check to see if standard indicator wording)

Evidence-based Learning Environment

Meets baseline state regulations & adheres to licensures and standards

Language-rich zones of learning with differentiated support provided by well-trained and qualified teachers

High-functional operating environment with multiple qualified leaders who provide instructional support to teachers and business management expertise

Indoor and outdoor learning spaces to engage in complex combination play and interaction with the natural world

Program provides nutritious food during meal and snack times

Program ensures that kids are enrolled in all available public benefits (childcare subsidies, early Head Start, etc.)

Support (professional development) and compensation of teachers

Demographics

% of service population of children under age 6 living in low-income families (income below the federal poverty threshold)

% of 3- and 4-year-olds in your program enrolled in a center-based early childhood program (this could include a high-quality childcare center, preschool program, Head Start program or public pre-K program)

% of children in your program, disaggregated by race/ethnicity

Rate of substantiated child abuse and neglect among children birth to age 6

% of children birth to age 6 in out-of-home placement (foster care) who have more than 2 placements in a 24-month period