



# earlymatters

## EL PASO

A historic coalition on **early education**.



### Vision

Every child in the El Paso Region is ready for success.



### Mission

Communities working together to ensure equitable access to high quality early childhood education that sets the foundation for lifelong learning and success.



### Texas Childcare Rating System: Why it Matters

The Texas Rising Star (TRS) program is a quality rating and improvement system for child care centers. It is required for all child care programs that serve children in the Texas Workforce Commission's Child Care Services (CCS) scholarship program. The higher a center's rating, the more funds they receive per child through CCS.



### Child Care in El Paso County: Access Issues

As of June 2024, only 70 seats are available for every 100 children in El Paso County. With each child care center closure, the # of seats reduces which can lead to an increase in child care deserts.\*

*\*A child care desert is an area where the number of children younger than 6 years of age who have working parents is at least 3 times greater than the capacity of licensed child care providers in that area. (TWC)*



### Child Care Centers Worker Shortages: The Causes

According to the Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness at UTEP, child care staff only earn 58% of the livable wage in El Paso. This is second to last for counties in Texas with over 500,000 people.

Furthermore, in 2023, the State of New Mexico mandated that child care staff receive a minimum of \$15/hr. The result for El Paso is child care staff traveling across state lines to earn significantly more for the same job.

# 25,304

TOTAL # OF  
CHILDREN  
AGES 3 & 4  
IN EL PASO COUNTY  
DATA FROM: 2020

# 9,213

TOTAL # OF  
CHILDREN IN  
CARE

DATA FROM: OCTOBER 2023 - SEPTEMBER 2024

# 5,019

TOTAL # OF  
PARENTS

# 389

TOTAL # OF  
CHILD CARE  
PROVIDERS

SOURCES:



**El Paso Collaborative  
for Academic Excellence**



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