



Austin Area School Readiness Efforts Pay Off for Children and Teachers

The Austin area is one of the longest-served Texas School Ready (TSR) communities in Texas. TSR is an innovative program that aims to increase children’s school readiness through five evidence-driven components: research-based curriculum, technology-driven child progress monitoring, facilitated teacher professional development, ongoing teacher coaching, and sustainability. The model has been praised nationally by early education leaders such as Robert Pianta, Bruce Fuller, and Sara Mead to name a few.

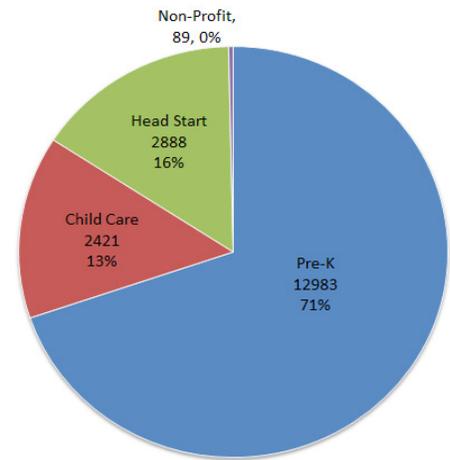
TSR focuses on teacher behavior in the classroom, the quality of instruction, and importance of the environment early education takes place in. As such, the Texas School Ready project ensures that the vehicles that have the greatest potential for positive impact on child outcomes (teachers and environment) receive attention and proper resources in order to improve the quality of early childhood programs.

Since the beginning of the project in 2003, TSR has partnered with sites in the Austin area to implement the program with preschool teachers. In fact, TSR has served approximately 25,500 children and 1,500 teachers in a variety of settings in the Austin area since 2008. We are proud to welcome Workforce Solutions Capital Area as TSR Lead Agent for 2015-2017!

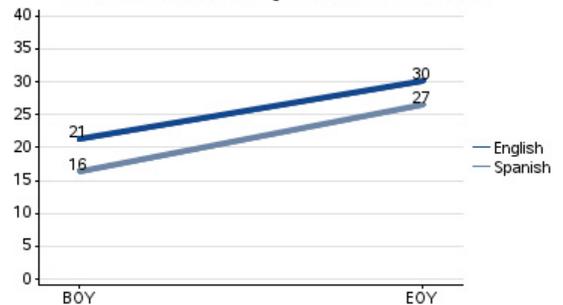
The graphs on this page show data from Austin area TSR classrooms last year. Children in Austin area TSR classrooms show steady growth in key predictors of literacy development like identifying letters in the alphabet and understanding phonological patterns like rhymes and alliteration. These are important school readiness skills that help children be more successful when they get to kindergarten.

As illustrated in the charts to the right, children in Austin area TSR classrooms show considerable gains in skill development in both English and Spanish from the beginning of the school year (BOY) to the end of the school year (EOY)!

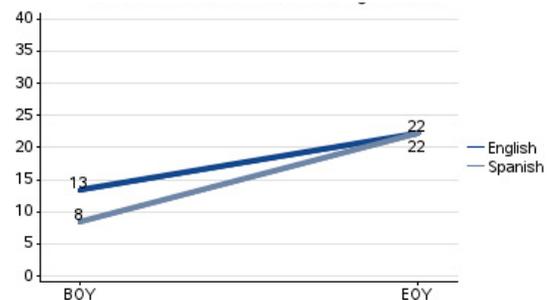
Austin Area Students Served in TSR Since 2008



Student Gains in Phonological Awareness Austin Area, 2014-2015



Student Gains in Letter Knowledge Austin Area, 2014-2015



For more information about the Texas School Ready project, visit texaschoolready.org





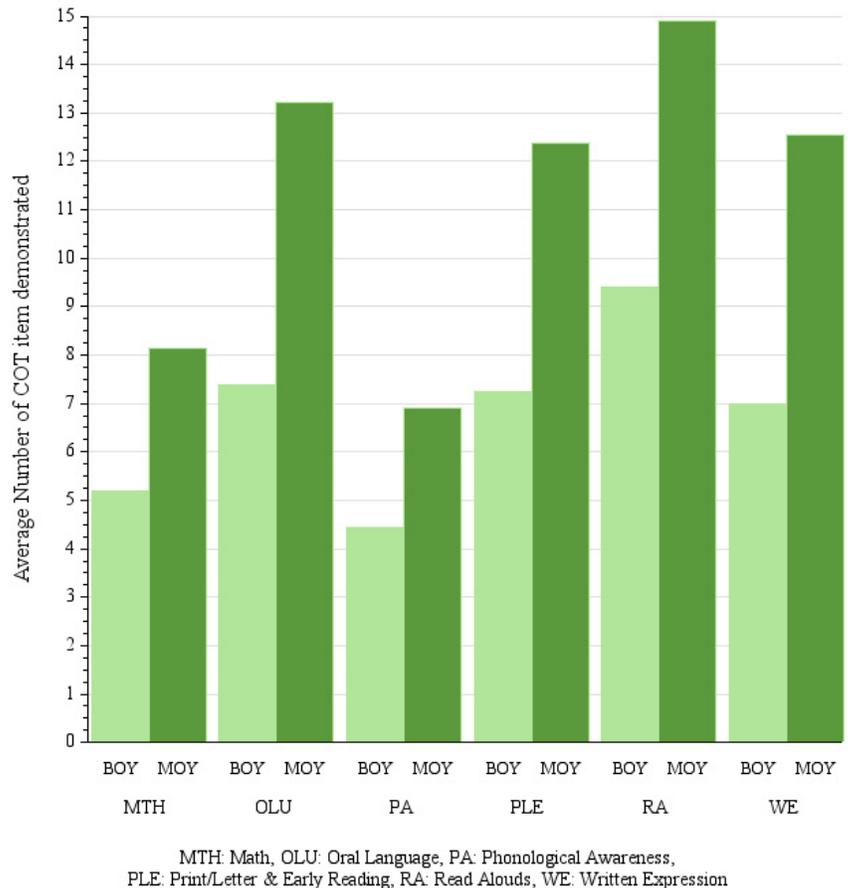
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At the heart of TSR is the desire to increase teachers' use of evidence-based practices and improve the quality of teacher-child interactions. Using cutting-edge techniques like data-driven coaching in the classroom, TSR is able to move outcomes in a positive direction. Pre-k teachers in the Austin area have shown dramatic changes after just a few months of participation in the project. Improvements have been realized across all content areas related to key early childhood indicators!

Teachers who have participated in TSR have expressed the tremendous impact the project has had on their classroom instruction and professional growth. Kay Fowler, the director of Mt. Sinai Christian Academy in Austin, spoke about the experiences of teachers at her center:

“At our school, we have had several pre-k teachers participate in the wonderful Texas School Ready project. This training has yielded nothing but outstanding results for the teachers and the students they taught. We have received several testimonial letters from parents of students who have moved on to public schools in the greater Austin area. One of our new teachers is extremely excited about the possibility of receiving this training. She wants to do it!”

Teacher Gains in the Use of Instructional Strategies
Austin Area, 2014-2015



As illustrated in the graph above, Austin area TSR teachers increase the quality of their practices from the beginning of the school year (BOY) to the middle of the school year (MOY)!

For more information about the Texas School Ready project, visit texaschoolready.org

