



# Laredo Area School Readiness Efforts Pay Off for Children and Teachers

Texas School Ready (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.

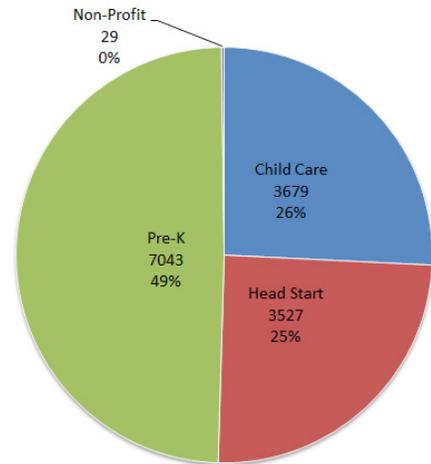
TSR focuses on teacher behavior in the classroom, the quality of instruction, and importance of the environment early education takes place in. As such, the Texas School Ready project ensures that the vehicles that have the greatest potential for positive impact on child outcomes (teachers and environment) 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 across Texas to implement the program with preschool teachers. In fact, TSR has served approximately 14,000 children and 900 teachers in a variety of settings in Laredo since 2008. We are proud to work with Workforce Solutions for South Texas as a TSR Lead Agent for 2015-2017!

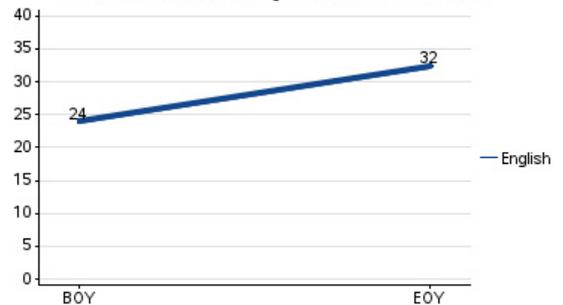
The graphs on this page show data from Laredo area TSR classrooms last year. Children show steady growth in key predictors of literacy development like identifying letters in the alphabet and understanding phonological patterns like rhymes and alliteration. These are important school readiness skills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

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

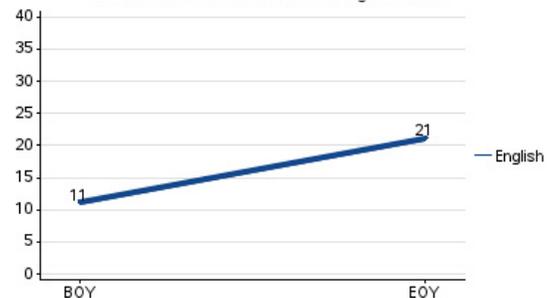
Laredo Students Served in TSR Since 2008



Student Gains in Phonological Awareness Laredo, 2014-2015



Student Gains in Letter Knowledge Laredo, 2014-2015



For more information about the Texas School Ready project, visit [texasschoolready.org](http://texasschoolready.org)





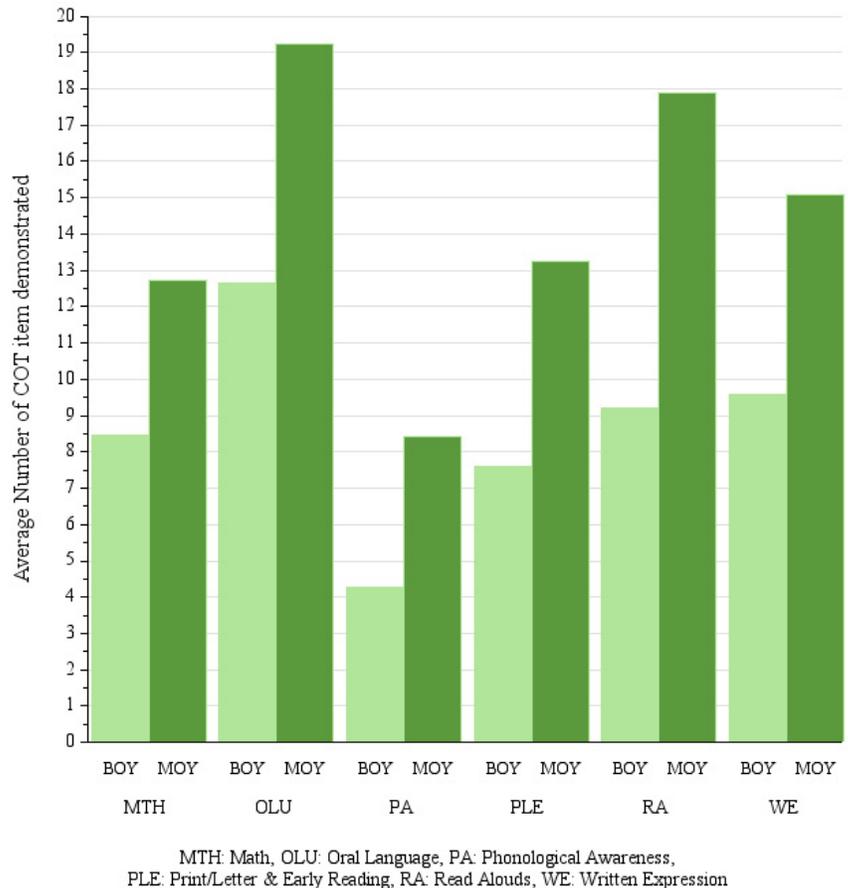
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At the heart of TSR is the desire to increase teachers' use of evidence-based practices and improve the quality of teacher-child interactions. Using cutting-edge techniques like data-driven coaching in the classroom, TSR is able to move outcomes in a positive direction. Pre-k teachers in Laredo have shown dramatic changes after just a few months of participation in the project. Improvements have been documented 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. Gloria Adriana Flores, a teacher at Sierra Vista Head Start in Laredo, explained:

“All the informative tools that the Texas School Ready Project has provided for me these past two years have allowed me to become more confident, independent, knowledgeable, and truly acquire a sense of passion and commitment to teaching. What I will always treasure about TSR is that every moment is a teachable moment and with that in mind we do not have a single moment to waste with children. I feel honored and privileged to be part of such a prestigious and elite group of teachers and mentors.”

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



As illustrated in the graph above, Laredo 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)!

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