

KEEP THE CHANGE

Last year, the legislature proved its commitment to early education by ensuring per-pupil pre-K funding was enough to promote quality. The legislature raised the pre-K rate from \$4,300 to \$5,000 per child, a difference of \$700 total and \$350 in state funds. Because the pandemic interrupted the session, the legislature made this change directly in the budget bill. This year, we need to finish the job to **make the rate increase permanent** and **prevent a cut to pre-K** in the middle of the pandemic. **Let's KEEP THE CHANGE!**

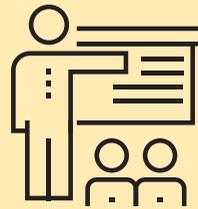
HOW \$5,000 PER PUPIL IMPACTED PRE-K IN LAMAR EARLY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE (ELC)



12 Classrooms



224 Students



12 Teachers



13 Teaching Assistants

\$49,000 INCREASE IN STATE FUNDS FROM THE RATE CHANGE

How Lamar ELC Used the Funds:

1. Every student and teacher received a hands-on learning kit to be used for virtual days. The kit included manipulatives and parent ideas; learning did not stop due to school closure!
2. Lamar ELC hosted innovative safe learning experiences to engage students and families in the learning process.

Lamar ELC Says:

"Lamar ELC meets the ever-evolving needs of children and families. The eight school district classrooms have been traditional with the exception of a few students allowed to participate virtually due to medical reasons. The four Head Start classes have all been virtual. Regardless of the school setting, hands-on learning has still continued, with families receiving at-home learning materials and teachers working in-person and online. We found new ways to engage families (Facebook Lives, prerecorded teacher videos about learning concepts, drive-in jungle-themed family movie night, Festival of Trees drive-thru event to help virtual students study tree farms, etc.). Engagement looks different, but it is still happening and our children are growing as a result of the learning partnership between our ELC and families. **Whatever the needs of our children and families are, we are able to meet them. This money ensures we can do that!**"

WE KNOW THAT FOUR-YEAR-OLDS WHO ATTEND HIGH-QUALITY PRE-K:

A Enter kindergarten with **stronger** literacy, language, math, and social-emotional skills.
B **C**



Are **less likely** to need special education services, **less likely** to repeat grades, and **more likely** to graduate and enroll in college.



See **stronger** employment opportunities and increased earning potential.



Are **less likely** to commit juvenile and adult crimes.

