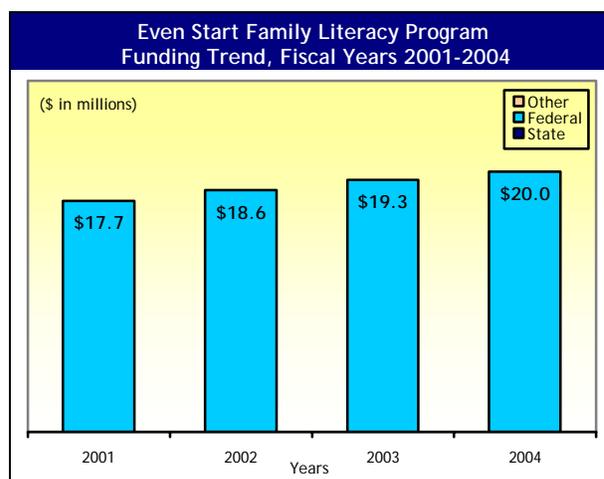


Summary by the Texas State Auditor's Office on:

# Even Start Family Literacy Program

Title I, Part B, Subpart 3 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (PL 107-110) and Code of Federal Domestic Assistance 84.213C

Funding Sources, Fiscal Year 2004	
Federal	State Appropriations <sup>a</sup>
\$ 20,010,922	\$ 0
	Local Match <sup>a</sup>
Funding Method	Competitive grants <sup>b</sup>
No. of Grants	95
Range	\$100,000 - \$200,000 <sup>b</sup>
Eligible Entities	Partnerships of LEAs with CBOs, and SSAs <sup>c</sup>



Flow of Even Start Family Literacy Program Funds, Fiscal Years 2001-2004							LEAs, Other Entities, Students, and Parents Served		
Year	Federal						LEAs <sup>d</sup>	Students	Parents
	Award to TEA	Budgeted	Awarded	Expended	Deobligated	Lapsed			
2001	\$ 17,749,748	\$ 11,920,313	\$ 13,199,312	\$ 11,906,263	\$ 1,066,273	\$ 14,050	71	5,244	3,854
2002	\$ 18,597,009	\$ 16,684,763	\$ 36,852,727	\$ 16,684,763	\$ 3,412,756	\$ 0	81	5,854	3,680
2003	\$ 19,349,063	\$ 17,481,189	\$ 21,316,467	\$ 15,329,199	\$ 2,088,497	\$ 0	90	11,316	7,316
2004	\$ 20,010,922	\$ 18,272,719	\$ 17,829,836	NYA	NYA	NYA	95	10,459	6,614
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 75,706,742</b>	<b>\$ 64,358,984</b>	<b>\$ 89,198,342</b>	<b>NYA</b>	<b>NYA</b>	<b>NYA</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>32,873</b>	<b>21,464</b>

UA - Unavailable NA - Category does not apply NYA - Not yet available (as of report date)

- <sup>a</sup> Under federal regulations, projects may be considered for funding for up to four years in the first cycle of awards. Grantees are required to provide a minimum 10 percent cost share in the first year, 20 percent in the second year, 30 percent in the third year, and 40 percent in the fourth year. In the second and third four-year cycles of continuation grants, grantees are required to provide a minimum 50 percent and 65 percent cost share, respectively.
- <sup>b</sup> Funding for new projects is competitive, while funding for continuation projects is non-competitive. For the 2003-2004 school year, 76 continuation projects and 19 new projects were funded.
- <sup>c</sup> LEAs must apply in partnership with a community-based organization, a public agency, a higher education institution, or another nonprofit organization. A group of LEAs in partnership with this type of organization may apply through an ESC using a shared services agreement (SSA); community-based organizations (CBO) or other nonprofit organizations must apply in partnership with a Texas LEA.
- <sup>d</sup> These numbers are the numbers of grants awarded. Because some grantees are funded for more than one Even Start Center, the numbers reported here understate the actual number of LEAs served and the number of centers established and operating.

## Targeted Students and Grade Levels

Families with at least one eligible parent and at least one eligible child may participate in the Even Start Family Literacy Program. An eligible adult must be the parent of at least one child who is seven years old or younger and must also be (1) eligible to participate in adult education and literacy through the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, (2) within the State's compulsory education school attendance age range, or (3) attending secondary school.

The information in these program summaries has been compiled from multiple sources of varying reliability and is unaudited. Sources include the Texas Education Agency, the U.S. Department of Education, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, universities, colleges, and other nonprofit organizations.

## Program Components

Program Component	Required/ Recommended/ Allowed
Counseling/Case Management	
Diagnostics-Based Intervention	
Academic Intervention	✓
Small Group Instruction/ Limited Class Size	
School-Day or Out-of-School Activity	Out-of-School
Computer Assisted Instruction	
Literacy/ESL/Bilingual Instruction	✓
College Preparation	

Program Component	Required/ Recommended/ Allowed
Career Preparation	
Mentoring	
Professional Development	✓
Parental Involvement/Education	✓
Community Involvement/Services/ Enrichment	✓
Pregnancy and Parenting Services	✓
Children's Day Care	✓
Safe Environment	

### Comments

The Even Start Family Literacy Program was established to help break the cycle of poverty linked with illiteracy by improving the educational opportunities of the nation's low-income families. Even Start's four components—early childhood education, parenting education, parent and child together, and adult education—build on one another and provide a basis for lasting change for the participating families. Intergenerational and integrated family education is unique to this program. The program also serves to improve the links between schools and communities by requiring strong community-school collaboration in applying for and delivering the program. TEA outsourced the grant management functions of this program to the Harris County Department of Education (Texas LEARNS), effective August 1, 2003.

### Evaluation\*

The 2003 *Families First: Texas Even Start Statewide Family Literacy Initiative Interim and Summative Evaluation Report* (Perry & Associates) found more gains for participating adults than for their children: (1) From 42 percent to 47 percent of participating adults demonstrated gains in reading, oral interview, and literacy, but targets were not met for math or language gains; (2) the program met targets for adults receiving a GED or diploma within the year, entering postsecondary education/training within the year, entering unsubsidized employment within the year, retaining employment, or advancing in their jobs within the year; (3) the program progressed toward but did not meet targets for children's attendance, promotion, reading at grade level, or progress between the language pretest and posttest. Texas LEARNS, which administers the program on behalf of TEA, released a report for the 2002-03 school year in June 2004. The report for school year 2003-04 will be published in June 2005.

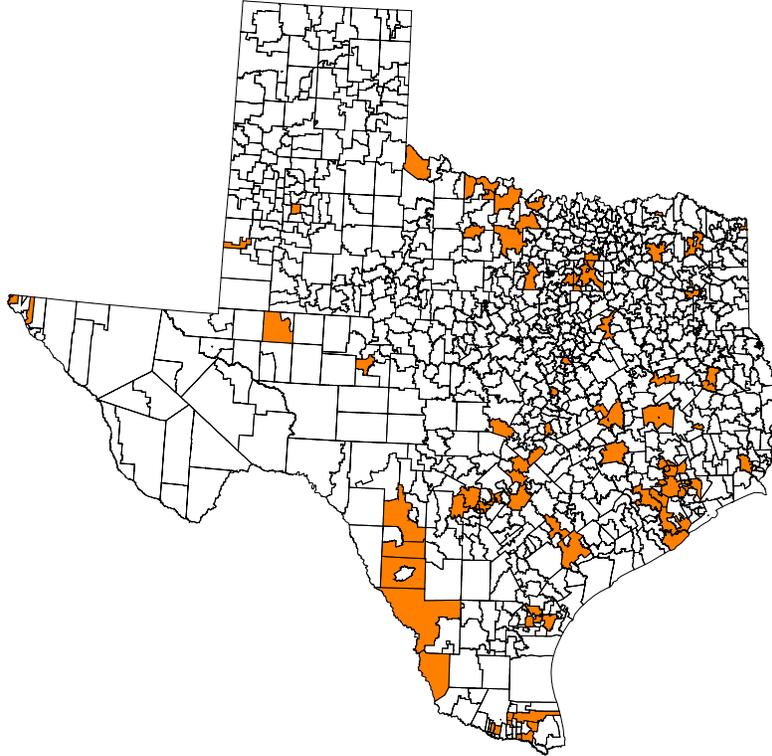
The *Third National Even Start Evaluation* (U.S. Department of Education, 2003) used a comparison control group study to evaluate program accomplishments nationwide. The study confirmed that Even Start serves a very disadvantaged population. Although it found that improvements in literacy for participating families were related to the extent to which they participated in the services, it also found that families were not taking full advantage of the program. As a result, while Even Start children and parents made literacy gains, they did not gain more than those in the control groups. The evaluators found that research needed to be conducted on the quality and content of Even Start's instructional services in order to identify best practices and needed improvements.

\* In most cases it is not possible to isolate the effects of funding for a single program on students' performance because districts applying for state funding for at-risk students are required to combine local, state, and federal resources to maximize services to at-risk students. For the same reason, a single program's cost does not provide a meaningful basis for determining the cost per student of a desired or achieved outcome.

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# Even Start Family Literacy Program

Statewide Distribution, School Years 2000-01 through 2003-04  
(Divided by LEA jurisdictions)



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