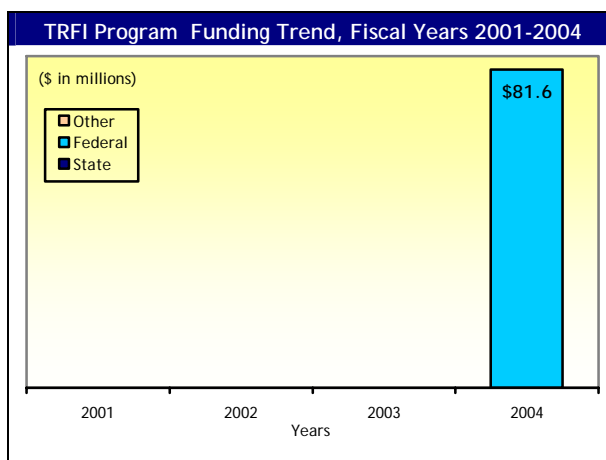Summary by the Texas State Auditor's Office on:

Texas Reading First Initiative Program (TRFI)

Title I, Part B - Student Reading Skills Improvement Grants, Subpart 1 - Reading First
(Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, PL 107-110)

Funding Sources, Fiscal Year 2004		
Federal	**State Appropriations**	**Other**
$ 81,634,534	$ 0	$ 0

Funding Method	Competitive grants
No. of Grants	114
Range	$170,000 - $9,881,766
Eligible Entities	LEAs with at least 13.6% of their students failing reading and jurisdiction over (1) an empowerment zone, (2) a low-performing campus identified for school improvement, or (3) a student body in which at least 15% (or more than 6,500) count for basic Title I, Part A allocations

TRFI Program Funding Trend, Fiscal Years 2001-2004

($ in millions)

- Other
- Federal
- State

$81.6

2001   2002   2003   2004
Years

Flow of TRFI Program Funds, Fiscal Years 2001-2004							LEAs, Other Entities, Students, and Parents Served [a]	
Year	**Federal Award to TEA**	**Budgeted**	**Awarded**	**Expended**	**Deobligated**	**Lapsed**	**LEAs**	**Students**
2004	$ 81,634,534 [a]	$ 65,307,630	$ $65,307,627	NYA	NYA	NYA	114	NYA [b]
Totals	$ 81,634,534	$ 65,307,630	$$65,307,627	NYA	NYA	NYA	114	NYA

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

[a] In addition to the $65.3 million awarded to LEAs through competitive grants, approximately $10.6 million was budgeted for professional development; $4.1 million for technical assistance for LEAs; and $1.6 million for grant planning, administration, and reporting.

[b] 2003-04 is the first year of the program, and the number of students served was not available at the time of this report.

Targeted Students and Grade Levels

The basic tier 1 TRFI Program targets all students in kindergarten and grades 1, 2, or 3 attending eligible TRFI campuses. Tiers 2 and 3 of the program address the needs of struggling students who did not perform satisfactorily on a readiness test or assessment instrument administered during the current school year.

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	School-Day
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	

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.

Comments

The TRFI Program was developed in recognition of the early elementary classroom as the most important teaching venue for reading. TRFI focuses on putting proven methods of early reading instruction into elementary classrooms to ensure that all children learn to read well by the end of the third grade. It calls for trained teachers to embed the essential components of reading instruction into all elements of the primary, mainstream K-3 teaching structure in Texas schools. TRFI provides (1) assistance to schools in establishing research-based reading programs for K-3 students, (2) support for a significant increase in professional development to ensure that all teachers have the necessary skills to teach these programs effectively, and (3) assistance in preparing teachers to screen for, identify, and eliminate the specific reading barriers their students face.
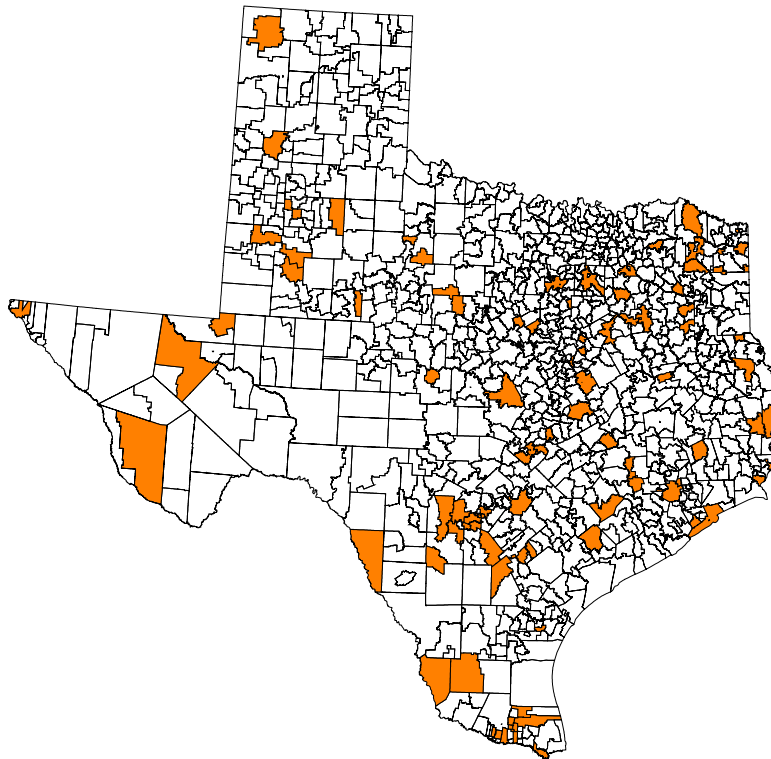
Evaluation*

Grantees and TEA use agreed-upon performance measures to manage and evaluate the TRFI programs. Because school year 2003-04 is the first year of the program, an evaluation of the program was not available at the time of this report. Grantees report campus-level data on student progress in reading proficiency, which TEA and its research partners will use to evaluate TRFI.

*   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.

Texas Reading First Initiative Program (TRFI)

Statewide Distribution, School Year 2003-04
(Divided by LEA jurisdictions)