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December 20, 2007

Commissioner Robert Scott  
Texas Education Agency  
1701 Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78701

Re: TEEM School Readiness Evaluation

Dear Commissioner Scott:

delivered in fewer than four months. The initial TEEM year saw fewer than 1,600 students placed in randomly assigned target and control groups and their results analyzed. This is what created the statistical power issue.

Because so much of the success of Pre-K services delivered to at-risk children is dependent upon the skills of the teacher, it is most instructive to look at the change in teacher behaviors and teaching practices when teachers received TEEM training. For example:


Teachers with TEEM training had statistically significant gains on the Teacher Behavior Rating Scale (TBRS, a nationally recognized, valid measure) when compared to ~~teachers~~ TEEM training.

Teachers with two years of TEEM training had higher scores on the Team Teaching, use of Lessons Plans and Best Practice subtests as well as Total Score on the TBRS than teachers with one year of TEEM training.


Teacher attitudes shifted during their participation in TEEM. Even teacher initially resistant reported a stronger confidence in their skills and most importantly, recognized each child's potential for success as result of TEEM training

It is also important to look at a key area where the TEEM project has ~~been~~ successful. The issue of community-based, voluntary integration of the services of school-based Pre-K, child care and Head Start to better serve the children and families of Texas, is a clear and prominent goal of both Senate Bill 76 and Senate Bill 23, the legislation that enabled and expanded the TEEM project. Working with communities to voluntarily integrate these programs is no easy task. All of these programs have long operated in isolation from one another, creating confusion for parents and duplication of services, while at the same time


Sincerely,



Don Barfield  
President



Kathy V. Shanley Ph.D.  
Senior Researcher



Chuck Wilkins Ph.D.  
Senior Statistician

cc: Dr. Susan Landry, Director  
State Center for Early Childhood Development