![Start Smart Texas logo]

HOW TO BECOME A START SMART TEXAS COMMUNITY

This is a supplemental tool used to support the detailed plan-of-action framework document found at www.smarttexas.org

START SMART TEXAS IS HERE TO SUPPORT THE AMAZING EARLY EDUCATION WORK YOU ARE ALREADY DOING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

START SMART HAS JOINED WITH THE CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE LEVEL READING TO LEARN FROM OTHER STATE INITIATIVES AND SHARE THE LATEST RESEARCH ON SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES WITH YOU

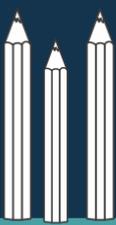## JUST STARTING TO JUMP INTO THE WORLD OF EARLY EDUCATION?

Not to worry. We can help you talk through next steps so you have a plan in place and can join Start Smart Texas to gain access to what other communities are doing throughout Texas. Nothing better than learning from amazing peers doing amazing things.

ALREADY DOING EARLY EDUCATION WORK IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Perfect! Start Smart Texas does not want you to start over. Start Smart is here to support the work you are already doing and this application is simply a process to put that existing work into a Start Smart Texas framework so we can better capture what is happening around the state of Texas.

READY TO GET STARTED ON YOUR SSTX PLAN OF ACTION?

PART ONE: THE COVER PAGE

Describe your geography, boundaries and population size. List school districts within your geography with the total number of students per district and # receiving free-and-reduced lunch.

PART 2: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Summarize your community's story in 2 pages or less. Share what information you think would be helpful to illuminate the history, character, strengths, and challenges of your community. No formal formatting needed. We just want to hear your story.

Include organization contact information for your collaborative partners. List those involved in your work, and describe how your work aligns with other community efforts.

Share who your existing funding partners are or how you are funding your early education work. If you're just getting started share how you propose to fund the work.

Feel free to share any additional demographic information that wasn't shared in the cover page. Or if there is any additional data that would help tell the story of your community please feel free to include that in the community overview.

PART 3: THE PLAN OF ACTION

Current landscape on data: Provide any school readiness, grade-level reading/math, or other educational data that influences your work.

Current landscape on services: Describe any of your collaborative's existing strategies, services, and programs that address the needs outlined by the above data.

Vision: Share your collaborative's future aspiration for your community.

Proposed outcomes: Describe your collaborative's proposed/future strategies. Broad strategy buckets are fine, this is simply an opportunity to share where you're headed. Drill down a bit and share your outcomes and goals for the next five years. If you don't have a fully formed strategy plan for the work just share what you do have as it relates to collaborative goals.

Partnerships: Any other initiatives going on in your community related to early education? Share how your collaborative is planning to work in conjunction and support/gain support other community work.

Measuring success: Share how your collaborative is currently measuring or planning to measure success.

Sustainability: Describe how your collaborative plans to sustain local efforts.

Visit startsmarttexas.org for more details and to download the detailed Plan-of-Action Framework

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![United Way / United Ways of Texas logo]