



The Partnership hosts first Education Council of 2015, discusses Early Matters coalition and the current legislative session

The Partnership held its first Education Council for 2015 on Tuesday, March 24 in the Partnership board room. Jesse Ayala, Public Policy Manager for the Partnership, welcomed Jim Postl, Chair of Early Matters, as the Council Speaker.

Early Matters is a broad-based coalition of more than 60 organizations, businesses, universities, public independent and charter school districts, bipartisan policy makers and other stakeholders. “The coalition

envisions a greater Houston region where young children are a part of supportive and nurturing families and are able to participate in high quality early education,” said Postl.

Early Matters’ primary goal is to ensure that children are able to read at, or above grade level by the end of third grade. Intentional early investments significantly improve kindergarten readiness, 3rd grade reading mastery, high school graduation rates, post high school education/credentialing and workforce readiness. “It’s a societal imperative but also an economic imperative if Houston is to continue to grow and prosper,” said Postl.

The Greater Houston Partnership’s top priority for the current legislative session is expanding full-day, high-quality pre-K to eligible four year olds. On March 24, the House Public Education Committee unanimously approved House Bill 4 (11-0). The Partnership is now working with other pre-K investment supporters to encourage full consideration by the House.



Early Matters Chair Jim Postl speaks at Early Matters Summit at Rice University on Sept. 26, 2015