



Pre-K 4 SA Historical & Milestone Timeline

Updated February 2019

2011 ----- Former Mayor Julián Castro convened a taskforce of corporate chief executive officers, superintendents, and education leaders in San Antonio to identify the most effective method for improving the quality of education in San Antonio. Named the ‘Brainpower Taskforce,’ they recommended the development of a program focused on high-quality prekindergarten services for four-year-old children.

2012 ----- San Antonio citizens voted yes to a 1/8th cent sales tax for the city to undertake the development of a Pre-K program.
(Supported 194,334 (53.49%); Opposed 168,970 (46.51%))

2013 ----- Pre-K 4 SA opened the doors of its North and South Education Centers, welcoming its first 700 students. The program began with seven partner school districts - Edgewood, Harlandale, North East, Northside, San Antonio, Southside and Southwest independent school districts.

Pre-K 4 SA also initiated its professional development program, extending early childhood best practices to teachers throughout the city through seminars, workshops, and in-school training that allows teachers to obtain state-certified continuing education credits CEUs.

2014 ----- Pre-K 4 SA opened its East and West Education Centers to serve a total of 1,500 students in its second year.

2015 ----- Pre-K 4 SA’s *Competitive Grants Program* launched. San Antonio public, charter, private, parochial schools and licensed childcare facilities were invited to apply for funds to help them to enhance, expand or create early childhood education programs.

2016 ----- Through the competitive grants program, \$4.2 million in grants were awarded to 16 education providers throughout the city. Grants are available to three categories of education providers across San Antonio: 1) public/charter schools, 2) private/parochial schools, and 3) child development centers.



An independent study using the Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment showed Pre-K 4 SA students who trailed the national norm at the beginning of the school year exceeded the national norm in cognitive, literary and mathematics at the end of the school year.

In its third year, Pre-K 4 SA reached peak enrollment, welcoming a total of 2,000 4-year-olds to their four centers throughout the community.

2017 ----- Pre-K 4 SA was honored with the prestigious H-E-B Excellence in Education Award in early childhood education.

Pre-K 4 SA welcomes its first partner school district, East Central Independent School District, since its founding.

For the fourth straight year, Pre-K 4 SA students exceed the national norm in kindergarten readiness, as measured by the GOLD Assessment. Pre-K 4 SA students surpassed averages in cognitive, literacy and mathematics, and eliminated the gap in oral language, physical and social-emotional, despite beginning the year significantly below average.

Pre-K 4 SA teachers were observed using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). Results showed Pre-K 4 SA teachers demonstrate instructional quality above the research threshold in all three domains of emotional support, classroom organization and instructional support. These results indicate Pre-K 4 SA provides quality instruction that leads to higher outcomes for students. Results from a new assessment of executive function also showed Pre-K 4 SA scores higher than the norm.

2018 ----- Pre-K 4 SA received the ultimate stamp of approval from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) by earning the Early Learning Program Accreditation.

Pre-K 4 SA and New Frontiers Public Schools joined forces to create the first and only public charter school partnership to date offering high-quality prekindergarten education to the families and students of South San Antonio.

Results from the Year 5 Westat evaluation indicated Pre-K 4 SA students continue to exceed the national norm in kindergarten readiness in cognitive, literacy and mathematics, and provides evidence of lasting effects of high-quality early childhood education.



2019 ----- Pre-K 4 SA produced positive academic outcomes for students enrolled in the first year of the program (2013-2014 cohort). On average, students enrolled in Pre-K 4 SA's initial class had stronger STAAR exam scores on third grade reading and math, better attendance, and less need for special education services than students who did not participate in public prekindergarten. This study also suggests the first cohort fared slightly better than children who participated in public prekindergarten. Because of its effect on attendance, San Antonio schools have so far realized a \$23.2 million dollar gain in school funding. The impact study, conducted by the Urban Education Institute at The University of Texas at San Antonio, was designed to evaluate the impact of Pre-K 4 SA on social and academic outcomes over time.

Pre-K 4 SA and Edgewood Independent School District formalized a partnership to leverage state funding and create a capacity building program at Gardendale Elementary School. The innovative SB 1882 partnership is designed to create greater capacity for high-quality early childhood education in prekindergarten through second grades in the partner school district.