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Contacts:

Paul Chapman, Director of Communications
paul.chapman@sanantonio.gov | 210-206-2721

Melissa Welch-Lamoreaux

melissa@loudclearcommunications.com | 210-325-5500

PRE-K 4 SA TOSSES LOTTERY FOR FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED APPLICATION PROCESS

***Pre-K 4 SA focused on access to high-quality pre-kindergarten
for every San Antonio 4-year-old***

San Antonio, TX- Pre-K 4 SA will open 2017/2018 pre-kindergarten enrollment on February 1 with a new application system that serves families on a first come, first served basis.

Since opening its doors in 2013, Pre-K 4 SA has used a lottery system to randomly select applications for admission. This year, Pre-K 4 SA is doing away with the lottery to make the application system faster and more convenient for parents. Under the lottery system, parents had to wait three months to find out whether their child had been selected for admission. With the new process, parents will know within seven days of applying whether their child has been accepted.

“We have been listening to our families and community about ways to improve our program. They told us the lottery system was burdensome, so we tossed it,” said CEO Sarah Baray.

Pre-K 4 SA registration for the 2017/2018 school year begins February 1. Parents can apply online at www.prek4sa.com. Their application will be processed based on eligibility requirements and availability. Parents will receive notification of acceptance within 7 days of applying.

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According to Baray, first come, first served enrollment eliminates the burdensome three-month wait and keeps the focus on quality early childhood education and family engagement.

“Acceptance within seven days takes the wait, the fret, and the chaos out of the enrollment equation,” said Baray. “We can begin to build relationships with the families. It gives our teachers and staff more milestones and touch points with the parents and children.”

Baray adds that access to high-quality early childhood education for every 4-year-old in San Antonio is key. “Giving our families notice of acceptance earlier allows us to engage accepted students and families faster, but it also allows us to help families find other high-quality pre-kindergarten options if we do not have a seat for their child at a Pre-K 4 SA center. As the resource for early childhood education in San Antonio, we take this responsibility seriously.”

Pre-K 4 SA has been hailed as a national benchmark by national early childhood education organizations for their innovative curriculum and focus on family. In September 2016, Pre-K 4 SA released independent study results on student achievement and growth, showing Pre-K 4 SA students who trailed the national norm entering the program exceeded the national norm in cognitive, literary and mathematics at the end of the school year.

Pre-K 4 SA has four centers strategically located throughout the city. Each center accepts 500 students each school year, totaling 2,000 students annually. In Fall 2016, Pre-K 4 SA reached capacity enrollment at 2,000. Over 4,000 families applied for the 2,000 available seats.

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About Pre-K 4 SA:

Pre-K 4 SA is a full-day pre-kindergarten program for 4-year-olds living in the City of San Antonio. Pre-K 4 SA is free for qualifying students, but also accepts tuition-paying students. The school day begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Before- and after-school care is also available at no additional charge from 7:15 to 8 a.m., and from 3 to 6 p.m. Breakfast, lunch and two snacks are included and free transportation is available to all students. Pre-K 4 SA has four Education Centers located throughout the city: North Education Center, 3635 Medical Dr.; South Education Center, 7031 S. New Braunfels Ave.; East Education Center, 5230 Eisenhower Rd.; and West Education Center, 1235 Enrique M. Barrera Memorial Parkway. The Pre-K 4 SA Professional Development program provides early childhood educators in San Antonio with complementary best teaching skills and practices in pre-kindergarten through third grade in order to exceed state-mandated student learning outcomes while focusing on the whole child. Visit www.prek4sa.com for more information.

One San Antonio

Diverse, internationally connected and globally competitive, San Antonio has a vibrant culture and economy and is consistently ranked among the fastest-growing cities in the United States. America's seventh-largest city offers opportunities in industries ranging from bioscience, financial services, aerospace, cybersecurity, energy and transportation manufacturing to healthcare. In 2016, San Antonio was named an All-America City by the National Civic League. We are Military City, USATM, home to crucial military commands supported by a patriotic citizenry. We welcome 34.4 million visitors annually who inject \$13.6 billion annually into our economy, and UNESCO designated the city's Spanish colonial missions as a World Heritage Site in 2015. Celebrating its 300th anniversary in 2018, San Antonio is a city with a storied past and an even brighter future. For more information, visit www.sanantonio.gov <<http://www.sanantonio.gov/>>.