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**Pre-K 4 SA's \$4.2 million grants program adds teachers, training, technology to San Antonio's early childhood landscape**

*Funds create more access, high quality curriculum for San Antonio four-year-olds*

**San Antonio, TX-** Fifteen San Antonio education providers received \$ 4.2 million in grants from Pre-K 4 SA in April 2016 to expand and enhance their early childhood education programs. The funds have helped school districts like Northeast Independent School District and Northside Independent School District to extend their pre-kindergarten programs from half day to full day, adding teachers, training and technology to ensure the highest quality learning environment.

“The Competitive Grants Program is a powerful tool for delivering on the promise of high-quality prekindergarten for San Antonio’s four year olds,” said Baray. “Not only are we engaging and preparing our youngest learners for success, we are also investing dollars into the community’s early childhood education infrastructure. It’s a win-win for San Antonio.”

Pre-K 4 SA serves 2,000 children at their four centers. The grants extend Pre-K 4 SA’s reach, serving an additional 2,080 four-year-olds at varied pre-kindergarten programs throughout the city.

The \$4.2 million grants created 171 full/part-time jobs with \$330,000 allocated to technology, including the purchase of iPads and tablets. Collectively, \$2.4 million was expended to increase the number of teachers, instructional assistants, support staff and extended day staff, while at the same time infusing the local economy with \$1.8 million in service contracts, professional development, and technology as well as capital improvements to outdoor learning spaces.

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## **Educators show grants impact on their pre-kindergarten programs at the Pre-K 4 SA Grants Showcase held at The DoSeum on Feb. 23**

Grants recipients will showcase how Pre-K 4 SA's Competitive Grants impacted their pre-kindergarten programs at an event at The DoSeum on Feb. 23. Pre-K 4 SA Competitive Grants is part of the organization's City of San Antonio charter to serve as the early childhood learning resource for the community. Pre-K 4 SA grants are on a two-year cycle with the next call for grant applications scheduled for Fall 2017.

"Pre-K 4 SA was designed to serve every four-year-old in the city," said Pre-K 4 SA CEO Sarah Baray. "Our school districts, charter and parochial schools and child development centers play a huge role in making San Antonio a national benchmark for early childhood education. By working together, we establish that our city is about supporting our youngest learners."

St. Mary Magdalen School, a Catholic dual-language school, used the grant to reduce their student-teacher ratio from 12:1 to 8:1.

"The benefits of this grant have been numerous and diverse. The most tangible effect has been the decrease in student-teacher ratio. This lower ratio has fostered deeper relationships, including those between the teachers and the students as well as between the teachers and parents. These enhanced relationships have yielded significant academic gains," says St. Mary Magdalen School Principal William Daily.

Daily adds that the teachers have enjoyed increased ability and opportunity to differentiate instruction and conduct varied informal assessments.

"Pre-K 4 SA has been a fantastic partner in empowering our students and community. Throughout the entire process, it has been consistently evident that Pre-K 4 SA remains first and foremost committed to children," said Daily.

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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 and 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](http://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)<<http://www.sanantonio.gov>>.