



For Immediate Release

November 8, 2017

Contact: Jill Byrd, Creative Noggin
jill@creativenoggin.com | 210.501.4288

Pre-K 4 SA students exceed critical kindergarten readiness measures
*Independent study finds teacher-child interactions at or above national average,
leading to significant improvements in student outcomes*

SAN ANTONIO — Pre-K 4 SA students exceed the national norm in kindergarten readiness according to an independent evaluation of students. For the fourth straight year, Pre-K 4 SA students surpassed averages in cognitive, literacy and mathematics despite beginning the year significantly below average.

“Pre-K 4 SA opened its doors in 2013 to 4-year-olds across San Antonio with a goal of delivering high-quality early childhood education to families who may not have access otherwise,” Pre-K 4 SA Board Chair Elaine Mendoza said. “The results indicate we are succeeding in a big way. Each year, we prepare 2,000 more children for kindergarten, and over the long-term we are on track to change the educational and workforce trajectory of San Antonio within one generation.”

Westat, Inc. conducted the planned study to measure the effectiveness of Pre-K 4 SA using the Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment.

“Our teachers continue to perform well in classroom quality across all four Pre-K 4 SA education centers,” Pre-K 4 SA CEO Sarah Baray said. “Our children came into pre-kindergarten significantly below the normed sample in five out of six GOLD outcomes. By the end of the school year, our students closed the gaps and were more than prepared for kindergarten and beyond.”

The year four evaluation of Pre-K 4 SA was conducted during the 2016-17 school year and sought to address the areas of attendance, instructional quality, and kindergarten readiness. 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.

-more-

“This study highlights the success of our teachers and students,” Baray added. “We use this assessment, conducted throughout the year, to continually improve curriculum, classroom strategies and professional learning for our teachers and our district partners.”

Pre-K 4 SA served 2,000 students during the 2016-17 academic year. Nearly 80 percent of students were low-income. Attendance rates have been stable since opening and average attendance for Pre-K 4 SA students was 93.6 percent.

Find the full report on the Pre-K 4 SA website, www.prek4sa.com.

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 Learning 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.

San Antonio: America’s 21st Century City

San Antonio is a global city with a dynamic economy and workforce, a deep cultural heritage and diverse communities that are resilient and welcoming. It is one of the strongest fiscally managed cities in the country with a vibrant business climate and a ‘AAA’ general obligation bond rating from all three major rating agencies. San Antonio is a city that nurtures entrepreneurship, encourages investment and funds infrastructure. America’s seventh-largest city offers growth opportunities in bioscience, financial services, aerospace, cybersecurity, energy, transportation, manufacturing and health care. In 2015, UNESCO designated San Antonio’s 18th century Spanish colonial missions as a World Heritage Site — the first in Texas. Proudly called Military City, USA®, San Antonio is home to one of the largest populations of active duty military, veterans and crucial military commands. In 2018, the city will celebrate its 300th anniversary, honoring its rich past and a bright future focused on innovation and livability. For more information, visit www.sanantonio.gov.

###