



**For Immediate Release**

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

**Pre-K 4 SA partners with San Antonio Food Bank to provide student lunches and family resources**

*Family-style meals, garden-to-table curriculum extends learning throughout day and into homes*

**SAN ANTONIO** — Pre-K 4 SA has selected the San Antonio Food Bank as its Nutrition Services Contract Provider. Students at Pre-K 4 SA enjoy chef-prepared family-style meals and two healthy snacks each day, including fresh produce from the Food Bank gardens and vendors.

The partnership brings together the Food Bank's experienced and credentialed chefs, nutritionists and master gardeners to collaborate with Pre-K 4 SA's administration, teachers and staff to offer educational and nutritional resources for students and families. As part of Pre-K 4 SA's high-quality curriculum and full-day programming to 4-year-olds living in San Antonio, the Food Bank partnership creates opportunities to extend the depth of learning through meal time in the classroom and into the students' homes.

"Family-style meals are an important part of high-quality early education because they help children develop healthy eating habits, learn social skills, and expand their vocabulary as teachers and children engage in conversation around the table," Pre-K 4 SA CEO Sarah Baray said. "The Food Bank is also assisting with our outdoor learning and garden-to-table curriculum by providing interactive, garden-centered activities focused on nutrition and physical activities tied to science, math and health."

In addition to providing daily breakfast, lunch and snacks to students in the four education centers, the Food Bank will assist with seasonal farmers markets and parent workshops to engage families in wellness activities based on healthy and affordable cooking, and the importance of nutrition and physical activity.

"We see this partnership as an excellent opportunity to join missions to not only provide nutritious meals but serve as an ongoing wellness resource to Pre-K 4 SA families in our community," San Antonio Food Bank CEO Eric Cooper said. "Through our education and outreach we are able to help children and their parents learn various aspects of what it takes to grow fruits and vegetables as well as how to use these foods in the kitchen."

On July 1, 2018, Pre-K 4 SA entered into the new contract and partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank. This partnership went into effect after the Evaluation Committee selected the Food Bank as the new Nutrition Services Contract Provider following a Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals earlier in the year.

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**About Pre-K 4 SA:**

Pre-K 4 SA is a comprehensive early childhood initiative aimed at changing the education and workforce trajectory of San Antonio in one generation. Pre-K 4 SA offers full-day pre-kindergarten 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. Extended hours are available at no additional charge from 7:15 to 8 a.m., and from 3 to 6 p.m. for working families. 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 pre-kindergarten through third grade educators in San Antonio with complementary continuing education to support best practice instruction to help every child in San Antonio excel. The Pre-K 4 SA Competitive Grants program provides more than \$4 million in funding annually to increase quality and access in early childhood programs throughout San Antonio. Visit [www.prek4sa.com](http://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](http://www.sanantonio.gov).

### **About The San Antonio Food Bank**

The San Antonio Food Bank is a 501c3 nonprofit organization providing millions of pounds of food to more than 500 charitable organizations in Southwest Texas serving those in need. In addition to food distribution, the San Antonio Food Bank provides numerous programs that not only solve the immediate problems of hunger, but help individuals and families gain long-term food security. For more information about the San Antonio Food Bank, visit our website at [www.safoodbank.org](http://www.safoodbank.org).