



For Immediate Release

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**Pre-K 4 SA formalizes partnership with Edgewood ISD
to create early learning destination**

Gardendale Elementary first to replicate the Pre-K 4 SA proven program on-site

SAN ANTONIO — 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, following approvals from both boards today. 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.

Pre-K 4 SA has worked side by side with Edgewood ISD administration and teachers to develop a plan for replicating Pre-K 4 SA's proven practices in Gardendale classrooms. The collaboration is building upon existing processes to create a model that is both sustainable and replicable throughout the district.

"This partnership is another step toward Pre-K 4 SA's long-term mission to positively impact early childhood learning across San Antonio," Pre-K 4 SA CEO Sarah Baray said. "This partnership creates greater access to high-quality, innovative curriculum and helps provide additional seats for the 25,000 four-year-olds in San Antonio."

The Gardendale Pre-K 4 SA Early Learning Program will offer prekindergarten and kindergarten under the professional guidance of Pre-K 4 SA beginning in August of the 2019-2020 academic school year as made possible by state funding available through the SB 1882 partnership. First and second grade classrooms will be added the following year. Priority enrollment will be offered to families within the Gardendale Elementary School boundaries, followed by families within the Edgewood district. Remaining seats will be offered to out-of-district families.

"As a partner school district, Edgewood ISD has seen first-hand the positive impact of Pre-K 4 SA by benefiting from its Competitive Grants Program and Professional Learning Department," Edgewood ISD Superintendent Eduardo Hernández said. "Studies have shown the success of Pre-K 4 SA's model education centers and highlighted the long-term, positive effects of high-quality instruction in pre-k through third grade classrooms across San Antonio. We see this collaboration with Pre-K 4 SA as a critical step to amplify results for children in our district and throughout our city."

In total, the partnership will support three prekindergarten classrooms and four kindergarten

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classrooms at Gardendale in the upcoming academic year. The classrooms will mirror the appearance used at Pre-K 4 SA's award-winning education centers.

"Pre-K 4 SA is delivering on our commitment to the citizens of San Antonio that approved our program in 2012," Pre-K 4 SA Board Chair Elaine Mendoza said. "This is an extension of our six year partnership with Edgewood ISD which even today provides professional learning and grants to improve early childhood learning taking place outside of our centers."

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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 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.

About Edgewood Independent School District

Edgewood ISD Mission Statement: Edgewood ISD provides an exceptional learning experience that engages, empowers and prepares students to compete and reach their highest potential in an ever-changing world
Edgewood ISD Vision: For every child, success. Edgewood Proud!

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