



Fact Sheet – March 2019

WHO ARE WE?

Pre-K 4 SA is San Antonio's voter-funded initiative to change San Antonio's educational and workforce trajectory in one generation through high-quality early learning. Through our comprehensive approach, which includes educating 2,000 four-year olds annually, providing over 10,000 hours of professional learning for educators, developing parents as educational advocates, and providing over \$4.2 million in grants to early learning programs across the city, Pre-K 4 SA benefits all of San Antonio's young children and their families.

WHAT DO WE DO?

By educating and empowering San Antonio's children at a critical age, Pre-K 4 SA is changing the educational and workforce trajectory in one generation. Our programs are designed to ensure that every 4-year-old in San Antonio has access to high-quality pre-kindergarten education. We provide training and resources to early education teachers throughout our city. We support and enhance other pre-kindergarten programs. Pre-K 4 SA is laying the foundation with proven practices to help early learners develop key cognitive skills and build sound character to become thoughtful, productive and civic-minded citizens.

Model Education Centers

Pre-K 4 SA's four model education centers serve as demonstrations of what is possible when young children have access to highly skilled teachers and an evidenced-based curriculum. Each year, our education centers deliver the highest-quality prekindergarten education to 2,000 four-year-olds. Every Pre-K 4 SA classroom is staffed with a certified lead teacher and an assistant teacher. Lead teachers hold a BA or master's degree in early education and receive over 150 hours of training each year. Assistant teachers have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and also receive ongoing training. To ensure every child receives individualized attention, Pre-K 4 SA maintains a 10-1 child to teacher ratio.

Pre-K 4 SA teachers use the High Scope curriculum model to improve cognitive, physical, social and emotional skills and inspire a love of learning in 4-year-olds across the city. Our teachers take pride in the ability to create unique classroom environments and impactful lessons that engage and inspire our young learners through purposeful play.

A 2018 program evaluation conducted by Westat, Inc., a third-party research firm, demonstrates that for the fifth straight year, Pre-K 4 SA students surpassed national averages in cognitive, literacy and mathematics despite beginning the year significantly below average. This independent research provides strong evidence that year after year, Pre-K 4 SA helps children exceed kindergarten readiness standards.



The Urban Education Institute at The University of Texas at San Antonio designed a study to evaluate the impact of Pre-K 4 SA on social and academic outcomes over time. In January 2019, the study found Pre-K 4 SA produced positive academic outcomes for students enrolled in the first year of the program (2013-2014 cohort). On average, students enrolled in Pre-K 4 SA's initial class had stronger STAAR exam scores on third grade reading and math, better attendance, and less need for special education services than students who did not participate in public prekindergarten. Across the board, public prekindergarten programs improved long-term student outcomes, with evidence suggesting participation in Pre-K 4 SA had an even more positive impact.

Pre-K 4 SA has been honored with the following awards and recognition:

- HEB Excellence in Education Awards Finalist, 2016
- Nature Learning Initiative (NLI) Grant Recipient, 2016
- Finalist, San Antonio Business Journal, Non-profit and corporate philanthropy award, 2016
- HEB Excellence in Education Award Winner, 2017
- Early Learning Program Accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), 2018

Family Engagement

Research shows that when families do better, we elevate student success, and create prosperous communities. Pre-K 4 SA engages parents, and employ a Family Engagement team for our program that includes Parent Liaisons at each of our four centers who provide guidance and support to our children and families. Parent liaisons are also charged with involving and connecting Pre-K 4 SA families within a community, building a network and becoming resources for each other.

Additionally, the Family Engagement Team includes a program-wide Family Specialist and Family Program Coordinator who bridge community and school outreach connecting families with valuable resources in the community and bringing community partnership programs into the educational centers. We also have dedicated Parent Café's at each center that provide community spaces to hold family events, classes, trainings, provide resources and for families to socialize and gather. Pre-K 4 SA fosters family leadership and helps support families to advocate for their children's emotional, social and academic development.



Professional development

The Pre-K 4 SA Professional Learning division offers free, best-in-class training to any early learning educator in San Antonio serving children birth through third grade. Our comprehensive approach includes workshops, seminars, network events, and job-embedded coaching. Pre-K 4 SA hosts in-service training for roughly 3,000 teachers, school principals and district administrators, early education leaders, and community providers annually.

Competitive grants

Pre-K 4 SA's \$4.2 million grants program adds teachers, training and technology to San Antonio's early childhood landscape annually. The funds create more access to high-quality curriculum for San Antonio's 4-year-olds in public, parochial and child development centers.

WHO DO WE SERVE?

Pre-K 4 SA accepts applications from all 4-year-olds in San Antonio on a first come, first served enrollment process, with seats reserved for children who qualify under state pre-kindergarten guidelines. A sliding scale tuition program exists for those who fall outside the guidelines but wish to attend.

Early childhood education is not publicly funded in Texas for all children. Per the Texas Education Code:

"The Texas Legislature determines eligibility requirements for free, public prekindergarten in Texas. When the Texas legislature established the prekindergarten program the intent was, and still is, to provide early learning experiences to students who are most at-risk for school failure. Therefore the eligibility is limited. The legislature believed that a high quality prekindergarten program could mitigate the impact of the at-risk characteristics, thereby assisting these students to become school ready when they enter kindergarten".
TEC§29.153(b) SAAH, Section 7.2

WHERE ARE WE?

Pre-K 4 SA has four education centers strategically located throughout the city. Each center offers a full-day pre-kindergarten program. 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. Free transportation is available to all students.

South Education Center, 7031 S. New Braunfels Ave.
Executive Director, Belinda Gonzalez

North Education Center, 3635 Medical Dr.
Executive Director, Sandy Weser

West Education Center, 1235 Enrique M. Barrera Memorial Parkway
Executive Director, Tina Reck-Guerra

East Education Center, 5230 Eisenhower Rd.
Executive Director, Tonda Brown



HOW ARE WE FUNDED? Pre-K 4 SA is managed through a City of San Antonio charter. A 1/8 cent sales tax in San Antonio funds 80 percent of the program, while supplemental funds through state and federal resources and grants provide for 20 percent of the program. Pre-K 4 SA is managed by a board of directors appointed by City of San Antonio City Council and the Mayor.

Pre-K 4 SA 2018/2019 annual budget is \$47 million.

Pre-K 4 SA averages \$11,470 per student annually.