



For Immediate Release

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

Keyhla Calderon-Lugo, Edgewood ISD
keyhla.calderon-lugo@eisd.net | 210.444.7955

**Gardendale Early Learning Program Powered by Pre-K 4 SA
Welcomes Pre-K and Kinder Students on First Day of School**
Edgewood ISD is first to replicate the Pre-K 4 SA proven program on-site

SAN ANTONIO — Children will walk through the doors for their first day of prekindergarten or kindergarten to become the first students at the Gardendale Early Learning Program powered by Pre-K 4 SA on August 19. This program, made possible by the partnership between Edgewood Independent School District and [Pre-K 4 SA](#), was designed to create greater capacity for high-quality early childhood education in San Antonio.

Pre-K 4 SA worked side by side with Edgewood ISD administration and teachers to leverage state funding to develop a plan for replicating Pre-K 4 SA's proven practices in Gardendale classrooms. The innovative SB 1882 partnership created greater capacity for high-quality early childhood education in prekindergarten through second grades in Pre-K 4 SA's partner school district.

"We are beyond excited to open the doors to our youngest learners at Gardendale Early Learning Program," Principal Kristin Willmann said. "We have a vision to provide an exceptional learning experience that engages, empowers, and prepares students for success. Our partnership with Pre-K 4 SA all but ensures we are on the right path for our students, families and staff."

Gardendale Early Learning Program currently has three prekindergarten and four kindergarten classrooms, with plans to extend the program to first and second grades over the next two years.

"The opening of Gardendale Early Learning Program marks an important step toward securing city wide partnerships to ensure our children have access to early learning and a foundation for success," Pre-K 4 SA CEO Sarah Baray said. "Not only are we able to provide more prekindergarten seats for San Antonio's 4-year-olds, we have been able to continue the highest quality of education through to kindergarten. Together, Pre-K 4 SA and Edgewood ISD are showing that our program is able to be replicated, scaled and applied in a public school system."

The Gardendale Early Learning Program offers its families highly skilled teachers and staff who are trained for early childhood education using the [High Scope curriculum model](#) to improve cognitive, physical, social and emotional skills and inspire a love of learning. The

classrooms mirror the appearance used at Pre-K 4 SA's award-winning education centers, including the outdoor learning spaces.

"The collaboration with Pre-K 4 SA has demonstrated that we can replicate the proven success and positive impact that Pre-K 4 SA has had on our district," Edgewood ISD Superintendent Eduardo Hernández said. "As a partner school district, Edgewood ISD has seen first-hand the positive impact of Pre-K 4 SA. The opening of Gardendale Early Learning Program shows we can amplify results across the city when we work together."

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About Gardendale Early Learning Program:

Established in 2019, the Gardendale Early Learning Program was formed as a result of a partnership between Pre-K 4 SA and Edgewood Independent School District. The innovative SB 1882 partnership leveraged state funding to create greater capacity for high-quality early childhood education in prekindergarten through second grades. The program, powered by Pre-K 4 SA, is designed to build a foundation of cognitive, physical, social and emotional skills and inspire a love of learning. Visit https://gardendale.eisd.net/early_learning_program for more information.

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.

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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