



## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Pre-K 4 SA opens enrollment for 2020-2021 school year** ***Program focuses on high-quality pre-k for every 4-year-old across San Antonio***

**SAN ANTONIO** — Pre-K 4 SA will open the 2020-2021 prekindergarten enrollment process on February 1 for its four model education centers, in addition to its replication site, Gardendale Early Learning Program. The application process serves families of 4-year-olds across San Antonio on a first come, first served basis. Pre-K 4 SA is free for qualifying students, and also accepts tuition-paying students.

Parents of eligible students can apply in one of three ways:

1. Online – complete the entire application process at <https://prek4sa.com/parents/prospective-parents/application/>
2. Visit an Education Center – Computers and staff are available between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
3. Call – talk to a Pre-K 4 SA staff member on the Enrollment Hotline at (210) 206-PREK

“Our open enrollment process helps eliminate the stress for families seeking access to high quality prekindergarten, and it allows us to immediately begin building relationships with our children and their families,” Pre-K 4 SA CEO Sarah Baray said. “We remain confident in the curriculum and teaching methods in our classrooms that demonstrate our children are not only ready for kindergarten but show positive results well into elementary school.”

Children must turn 4 years old on or before September 1 of the year they attend Pre-K 4 SA. Each of the four education centers will be filled as qualifying applications are received. Applications will be processed based on eligibility requirements and availability. Accepted applicants will be notified by email beginning the first Monday in February. Notifications will continue each Monday as space is available at each Center. Enrollment at the four education centers is limited. Pre-K 4 SA will provide assistance to families who may need help finding other high-quality pre-kindergarten options if there are not enough seats at a Pre-K 4 SA center.

“We know that children who attend Pre-K 4 SA begin the school year significantly below the national average,” Pre-K 4 SA Board Chair Elaine Mendoza said. “But by the end of the year, Pre-K 4 SA students close those gaps and demonstrate they are prepared to enter and succeed in elementary school. Year after year, the Board of Directors is pleased to see the positive growth in each class of Pre-K 4 SA students.”

A community impact study released in 2019 by the Urban Education Institute at The University of Texas at San Antonio evaluated the impact of Pre-K 4 SA on social and academic outcomes over time. The study found that 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.

#### **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 7:45 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 Gardendale Early Learning Program powered by Pre-K 4 SA is the first replication site and was made possible through a partnership with Edgewood Independent School District. This program creates greater capacity for high-quality early education with both pre-k and kindergarten classrooms. 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.

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