



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Pre-K 4 SA's \$4.2 million grant program application opens for 2020-2021 school year**

*Competitive Education Grants provide funding for improved instructional quality, learning environments, and curriculum innovations to support San Antonio's early learners*

**SAN ANTONIO** — Pre-K 4 SA opens the competitive grants program application for the 2020-2021 school year as part of its long-term strategy to change the educational and workforce trajectory of San Antonio within one generation.

"Pre-K 4 SA's \$4.2 million Competitive Grants Program is a powerful tool for extending access to high-quality early childhood education for San Antonio's 4-year-olds," said Pre-K 4 SA CEO Sarah Baray. "Not only are we engaging and preparing our youngest learners for success, we are delivering on the promise to invest dollars into the community to positively impact the early childhood education infrastructure across the city."

Pre-K 4 SA releases the Request for Proposal (RFP) to award grants to pre-k 4 education providers in two categories: 1.) public and charter schools and 2.) private and parochial schools. Applications will open Dec. 20 and will close Feb. 7. The Pre-K 4 SA Grants application is posted at [prek4sa.com](http://prek4sa.com).

"High-quality early childhood education matters when it comes to brain development," Pre-K 4 SA Board Chair Elaine Mendoza said. "Through our Grants Program, we are able to work with our community partners to improve and build the foundational components of a high-quality program to help San Antonio's children realize the benefits."

The Grants Program funds early childhood education providers based upon needs identified by utilizing Pre-K 4 SA's High-Quality Education Impact Pyramid. Each tier considers essential elements of high-quality early learning from improved teacher and instructional quality, to outdoor learning environments, family engagement and curriculum innovations.



Pre-K 4 SA's  
High-Quality Education Impact Pyramid

Pre-K 4 SA Grants Application Workshops are available for eligible education providers to learn more about the application process. At the workshops, Pre-K 4 SA will provide an overview of the grant goals, eligibility, required and recommended projects, and details on the application structure followed by a question and answer session. Attendance is encouraged for all interested education providers to fully understand the RFP process.

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A workshop will take place on Jan. 13 from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Pre-K 4 SA South Education Center.

“Pre-K 4 SA was designed to set up every 4-year-old in the city for a lifetime of success,” Baray said. “Our local school districts and community partners play a huge role in making San Antonio a national model for replicable and scalable early childhood education. By working together, we can establish a process that is no more expensive than the traditional model.”

Pre-K 4 SA serves 2,000 children at its four education centers, and another 48 at its fifth center, Gardendale Early Learning Program. The grants amplify Pre-K 4 SA’s impact, serving an additional 4,663 4-year-olds at different pre-kindergarten programs throughout the city annually.

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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.

**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](https://gardendale.eisd.net/early_learning_program) for more information.