



For Immediate Release

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Pre-K 4 SA Offers Glimpse into In-Person Early Learning for Fall 2020

Education centers increase safety protocols, provide high-quality pre-k curriculum during the COVID pandemic

SAN ANTONIO — Like most schools across Bexar County, Pre-K 4 SA is preparing for children to start the school year with remote learning. Pre-K 4 SA administrators, teachers and staff are also installing new technology and safety protocols to keep attendees safe when they are able to return to in-person learning.

Pre-K 4 SA understands the concerns most parents have when making decisions for the health, safety and education of their children during the COVID pandemic. Pre-K 4 SA CEO Sarah Baray feels it is important to share a preview of what a day at one of the education centers will look like for students and families.

“Pre-K 4 SA is adding new safety features and developing new sanitation protocols to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 for students and staff when we return to our education centers,” Baray said. “Drawing on the latest guidance from public health officials and our own consulting physician, we’ve organized our focus around three goals -- one, keep the virus out of the building. Two, reduce the chance of an outbreak. And three, respond quickly to potential COVID exposure.”

Children riding the bus to and from school will still enjoy the comfort of a 5-point harness safety seat and having teacher assistants accompany them on the bus. Routes have been redesigned to limit the number of riders on the bus to ensure social distancing.

When children arrive at school, teachers will greet families with curbside drop-off and touchless sign-in. Each child, teacher and staff member will be screened including daily contactless temperature checks. Pre-K 4 SA will limit items entering the building. Individually packaged meals and snacks will be provided. Pre-K 4 SA will also provide reusable water bottles, nap mats and blankets, and face shields/face masks, which will be assigned to individual children. These will remain at Pre-K 4 SA so they are able to be sanitized at the centers.

“Pre-K 4 SA has made significant changes to retrofit our education centers to provide a safe learning environment for our teachers and children,” Pre-K 4 SA COO Brad Davenport said. “From increased surface sanitizing to touchless sinks, toilets, water fountains, doors and paper towel dispensers, we are following strict sanitation protocols. In addition to increasing the amount of space for outdoor classrooms, we are improving our HVAC

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system to maximize airflow and have installed hospital grade air filters capable of capturing virus particles in all of our centers.”

Protective gear will be required in the education centers. Teachers and children are required to wear masks when entering the building and face shields in the classrooms. Frequent handwashing will occur throughout the day. The number of children in a classroom has been reduced, and the same pod of children and teachers will occupy each classroom each day. Plexiglass table dividers will allow children to sit together at the table without a shield or mask for meals.

“Every day of instruction matters, even in a global pandemic,” Pre-K 4 SA Board Chair Elaine Mendoza said. “Pre-K 4 SA has established a high-quality remote learning option for our families, and has taken the health and safety of our families as the highest priority for those who choose in-person learning. We will continue to follow guidance from Metro Health and are prepared with protocols in place to respond to a potential COVID exposure.”

The Pre-K 4 SA 2020-2021 school year will begin with on-line learning on August 17. While subject to change, in-person learning is slated to begin September 8. For more information or details on the remote learning curriculum at Pre-K 4 SA, please visit www.prek4sa.com.

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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 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 for more information.