



For Immediate Release

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Pre-K 4 SA Provides HB 3 Reading Academies Free of Charge to District Partners

Kinder through third grade educators required to receive training in the science of teaching reading

SAN ANTONIO — House Bill 3 (HB 3), one of the most transformative Texas education bills in recent history, requires each teacher and principal in kindergarten through third grade to attend Texas Education Agency (TEA) Reading Academies within the next three years, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Pre-K 4 SA was chosen among other organizations across the state to become a TEA authorized provider of the reading academies.

Pre-K 4 SA will provide HB 3 Reading Academies to its partner school districts free of charge.

“Pre-K 4 SA continues to be a leader in early learning resources, research and training,” Pre-K 4 SA CEO Sarah Baray said. “TEA selected our Professional Learning Department through our competitive authorization program. Pre-K 4 SA will have HB 3 Reading Academy Cohort Leaders who will train kindergarten through third grade educators on the science of teaching reading in order to create a statewide workforce able to provide a highly effective reading curriculum and instruction to early learners.”

Beginning September 8 and ending June 8, 2021, Pre-K 4 SA will offer a total of five cohorts – four English language cohorts and one biliteracy (Spanish) cohort. Approximately 480 early childhood educators from East Central ISD, Edgewood ISD, Harlandale ISD and Southwest ISD will participate in the first year of the program, saving the districts \$192,000 collectively.

“During a time when our students need us most, and budgets remain a challenge, it was critical that we leveraged our partnership with Pre-K 4 SA,” East Central ISD Superintendent Roland Toscano said. “This opportunity provides our district with the opportunity to provide our teachers with the training they need to better educate our students and improve their reading skills for foundational education success.”

The passage of HB 3 provides funding to help districts ramp up to full-day prekindergarten for eligible children. HB 3 also funds pay increases for Texas educators. The addition of the reading initiatives helps address the quality and curriculum standards needed to make lasting benefits for the educational success of children and economic success of communities.

“Pre-K 4 SA is proud to help fill the gap in both access to pre-k and quality of pre-k for all 4-year-olds across San Antonio,” added Baray.

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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.