



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Pre-K 4 SA Opens Enrollment to 3-year-olds and Launches a New Scholarship Structure**

*Program continues to make good on its promise to San Antonio to increase access to high-quality early learning*

**SAN ANTONIO** — [Pre-K 4 SA](#) continues to increase access to high-quality early learning in San Antonio by opening enrollment to 3-year-olds and launching a new scholarship structure for families who need it most.

Research indicates 90% of brain development occurs before the age of five. Pre-K 4 SA leaders made these strategic program enhancements to support families' investment in their children and reaffirm Pre-K 4 SA's commitment to providing high-quality, research-based early education that empowers children at a critical age for school and life success.

Open enrollment for 3-year-olds will begin May 9. The enrollment process will be the same as it is for 4-year-olds currently enrolling, with the exception that children must be at least 3 years old by September 1, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year. Families interested in applying at Pre-K 4 SA can visit the [website](#) or call 210-206-PREK (7735).

"We know that one year of high-quality early learning has demonstrated proven long-term success for children," Pre-K 4 SA CEO Sarah Baray said. "National research indicates that two years of pre-k is exponentially better and has immediate, short term and long-term benefits to children, families, and the community."

Pre-K 4 SA's tuition assistance and scholarship structure was expanded to include San Antonio's working, middle-class families who may need financial support but do not already qualify for free, high-quality pre-k through Texas Education Agency (TEA) guidelines. A [scholarship calculator is available on the website](#) for families to easily determine their personal investment to enroll their children at Pre-K 4 SA.

"Pre-K 4 SA was created and authorized in 2012 when the citizens approved a 1/8<sup>th</sup> cent sales tax for the city to undertake the development of a pre-K program. And in November 2020, the citizens of San Antonio overwhelmingly approved the reauthorization to continue funding Pre-K 4 SA for another eight years," Pre-K 4 SA Board Chair Elaine Mendoza said. "Ten years later, improvements like these demonstrate that the program continues to make good on our promise to increase access to high-quality pre-k for all families in our community when it matters most and for those who have the greatest need."

Pre-K 4 SA has four education centers in addition to one innovation site at Gardendale Elementary. The program also provides training and resources to early education teachers throughout San Antonio and supports other pre-k programs across the community through its grants program.

**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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