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PRE-K 4 SA PROVIDES EXEMPLARY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AS THE STATE LAGS IN QUALITY STANDARDS

San Antonio's High-Quality Preschool Programs Serve As An Example For Others

SAN ANTONIO – While the State of Texas continues to lag other states in early childhood education investment and standards, San Antonio's Pre-K 4 SA is moving the city toward equitable access to high-quality early childhood education. The program's success can be attributed to its comprehensive approach that includes model education centers, support services for both children and families, professional learning for educators, and grants to support early learning programs across the city.

According to the [2022 State of Preschool Yearbook](#), released in May 2023 by Rutgers University's National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), [Texas' 2022 National Rankings](#) are as follows:

- Enrollment at age 4: 10th (47 percent)
- Enrollment at age 3: 14th (9 percent)
- State spending per child: 32nd (\$4,267)
- All-reported spending per child: 37th (\$4,971)

Pre-K 4 SA Education Centers meet all 10 NIEER quality standards, though Texas only requires programs to meet four standards. Through strategic investments and close partnerships, Pre-K 4 SA is helping to ensure other programs meet higher quality standards, too. Pre-K 4 SA provides eight partner school districts and 57 child development centers with funding and support for quality enhancements, such as evidenced-based curriculum, authentic assessments, and specialized teacher training. Pre-K 4 SA's goal is to ensure every family in San Antonio has access to affordable, high-quality early learning.

“San Antonio is leading the way in progress towards positive change in the early childhood education space, but there is more work to be done,” said Dr. Sarah Baray, CEO of Pre-K 4 SA. “San Antonio voted to invest in early childhood education twice because our community and business leaders know the value of our youngest learners starting their educational journey as soon as possible. Report after report shows the benefits of preschool, and we are lucky to live in a city that has aspirations for children to succeed beyond measure.”

With a focus on delivering high-quality early learning experiences, Pre-K 4 SA has become a landmark example of how investing in preschool can yield significant benefits for children and communities alike for generations to come.

“Our children are our future, and when their curiosity is properly fostered, they will one day solve many of today's problems,” said Elaine Mendoza, chair of Pre-K 4 SA. “As a business leader, I have seen the benefits of connecting my staff to preschool options. Mom or dad come to work



happier, healthier, and with peace of mind knowing their child is safe and participating in high-quality learning that will benefit them their entire lives.”

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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 prekindergarten for 3 and 4-year-olds living in the City of San Antonio. Pre-K 4 SA is free for qualifying students and accepts tuition-paying students. 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, and the Gardendale Early Learning Program, the first Pre-K 4 SA innovation site, which was made possible through a partnership with Edgewood Independent School District. This program creates greater capacity for high quality early education with Pre-K through 2nd grade classrooms. Visit www.prek4sa.com for more information.