



Historical & Milestone Timeline

Updated December 2024

2024

Gardendale Early Learning Program, Powered by Pre-K 4 SA, partnered with Communities in Schools to best support children and families with needed resources.

Pre-K 4 SA partnered with Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) to address the critical need for child care options for military families.

Pre-K 4 SA received the Outstanding Child Focused Nonprofit/Nonprofit Program award from CHILDREN AT RISK.

Pre-K 4 SA introduced Rockstar, the official mascot for the program.

2023

Pre-K 4 SA partners with HOLT Group to build a new South Center location.

2022

Pre-K 4 SA opens enrollment to 3-year-olds and launches a new scholarship structure.

2020

Pre-K 4 SA was reauthorized by San Antonio voters for another eight years (Supported 361,045 (73.1%); Opposed 131,781 (26.9%)).

2019

Pre-K 4 SA, United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, and CHILDREN AT RISK partnered to launch the Shared Services Alliance (now the Early Learning Shared Services Alliance Powered by Pre-K 4 SA) to enhance early education quality, promote family engagement, and strengthen the child care business model.

Pre-K 4 SA forms a partnership with Edgewood Independent School District to create Gardendale Pre-K 4 SA Early Learning Program.

Pre-K 4 SA secured NAEYC accreditation for East Education Center.

2018

In its sixth year, Pre-K 4 SA continues to make strides in Early Childhood Education with these milestones:

- A Parents as Partners program was launched to support the Parent Engagement initiative.
- Pre-K 4 SA secured NAEYC accreditation for North, South, and West Pre-K 4 SA Education Centers.
- Pre-K 4 SA introduced its Early Learning Leadership Series.

2017

Pre-K 4 SA was honored with the prestigious H-E-B Excellence in Education Award in early childhood education.

Pre-K 4 SA welcomed an additional partner school district — East Central Independent School District.

For the fourth straight year, Pre-K 4 SA students exceeded the national norm in kindergarten readiness, as measured by the GOLD Assessment.

Pre-K 4 SA students surpassed averages in cognitive, literacy and mathematics, and eliminated the gap in oral language, physical and social-emotional, despite beginning the year significantly below average.

Pre-K 4 SA teachers were observed using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS).

- Results showed Pre-K 4 SA teachers demonstrate instructional quality above the research threshold in all three domains of emotional support, classroom organization and instructional support. These results indicate Pre-K 4 SA provides quality instruction that leads to higher outcomes for students. Results from a new assessment of executive function also showed Pre-K 4 SA scored higher than children in municipal pre-k programs in another city.

2016

In its third year, impressive milestones were attained:

- Pre-K 4 SA reached peak enrollment, welcoming a total of 2,000 4-year-olds to their four model education centers located in each quadrant of the city.
- Through the Competitive Grants Program, \$4.2 million in grants were awarded to 16 education providers throughout the city. Grants are available to three categories of education providers across San Antonio: 1) public/charter schools, 2) private/parochial schools, and 3) child development centers.
- An independent study using the Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment showed Pre-K 4 SA students who trailed the national norm at the beginning of the school year exceeded the national norm in cognitive, literary, and mathematics at the end of the school year.

2015

Pre-K 4 SA's Competitive Grants Program launched. San Antonio public, charter, private, parochial schools and licensed child care facilities were invited to apply for funds to help them enhance, expand, or create early childhood education programs.

2014

Pre-K 4 SA opened its East and West Education Centers to serve a total of 1,500 students in its second year.

2013

Pre-K 4 SA opened the doors of its North and South Education Centers, welcoming its first 700 students. The program began with seven partner school districts – Edgewood, Harlandale, North East, Northside, San Antonio, Southside, and Southwest independent school districts joined us as partner school districts in our first year.

Pre-K 4 SA initiated its professional learning program, extending early childhood best practices to teachers throughout the city through seminars, workshops, and classroom-embedded coaching that allows teachers to obtain state-certified continuing education credits CEUs.

2012

San Antonio citizens voted “yes” to a 1/8th cent sales tax for the city to undertake the development of a Pre-K program.

(Supported 194,334 (53.49%); Opposed 168,970 (46.51%))

2011

Former Mayor Julián Castro convened a blue ribbon task force of Chief Executive Officers, Superintendents, and education professionals to identify the most effective method for improving the quality of education in San Antonio. The Brainpower Taskforce recommended the development of a program focused on high-quality prekindergarten services for 4-year-old children because research shows high-quality prekindergarten has the most impact in improving overall education outcomes for a community and helps children to learn and read on grade-level, making them less likely to fall behind their classmates and more likely to graduate and attend college.