

For Immediate Release

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Pre-K 4 SA Celebrates Grand Opening of its New South Education Center

Made possible by a public-private partnership with HOLT Group, the new center also welcomes infants and toddlers

SAN ANTONIO — Although the joyful sounds of children have filled the classrooms and hallways since August, <u>Pre-K 4 SA</u> today officially announced the grand opening of its new South Education Center. The grand opening event celebrates a continued commitment to the children and families of San Antonio and highlights the power of a visionary public—private partnership between <u>HOLT Group</u> and Pre-K 4 SA.

"Pre-K 4 SA is a shining example of collaboration and innovation," Mayor Gina Ortiz Jones said. "Our city leaders saw a need nearly 15 years ago, and Pre-K 4 SA continues to open the door to possibilities for children, families and businesses now and into the future."

This is San Antonio's first early childhood center designed in collaboration with architects and early learning specialists. Every aspect of the school was purposefully created to support both young children and the educators who nurture them.

State-of-the-Art Facilities

Inspired by San Antonio's culture and natural landscape, the building, which includes indoor and outdoor classrooms, training rooms and office spaces, was intentionally constructed to foster growth, development, and learning through play. Designed with intention, every detail of the more than 53,000 square foot center inspires Pre-K 4 SA's commitment to the city's youngest learners and their families, as well as educators and the future of San Antonio.

The school features state-of-the-art classrooms tailored for children from 6 weeks to 5 years of age. In addition to providing high-quality pre-kindergarten to 3- and 4-year-olds, the center boasts four classrooms dedicated to infants and toddlers, a first for the program. This expansion is a strategic response to the shortage of quality child care options on San Antonio's South Side and Pre-K 4 SA's dedication to providing affordable and responsive, high-quality early childhood education solutions for families with young children.

"This center is a powerful example of the role business leaders can play in collaborating to build foundations of success for San Antonio, and in this case, ensuring children have access to affordable, high-quality early education," Pre-K 4 SA CEO Dr. Sarah Baray said. "Working together as a community, we become more responsive, courageous, and innovative."

Public-Private Partnership

Pre-K 4 SA and HOLT Group united to drive meaningful change in San Antonio's educational and workforce landscape. This collaborative effort leveraged the strengths, resources and expertise of both organizations, fostering innovation and responsiveness to the evolving needs of the community.

"When families can access affordable child care, household incomes rise, workforce productivity improves, and the city benefits from a more diverse and resilient economy. Removing barriers to employment through child care is a direct investment in San Antonio's economic vitality," HOLT Group CEO Peter J. Holt said. "We are honored to work with the City of San Antonio and Pre-K 4 SA to invest and cultivate our unique public-private partnership to make this center a reality."

Strategic Location

The new South Education Center, located at 3510 S WW White Road, is strategically positioned to address the need for affordable and accessible early childhood education in an area identified as a child care desert. The City of San Antonio Early Learning Landscape Study, which was released earlier this year, revealed that South San Antonio has the highest need for quality early learning options, especially for infants and toddlers. This center is designed to meet that need head on.

"The South Side of San Antonio is full of opportunities for personal and professional growth for people of all ages," District 3 Councilwoman Phyllis Viagran said. "This beautiful education center is an investment in this community and a testament to the power of leaders who come together to enrich the lives of our children and families by strengthening the entire South Side."

Community Impact

Pre-K 4 SA's strategic expansion to serve infants and toddlers aligns with its mission to bridge educational gaps and ensure children in San Antonio have a strong foundation for future academic success. This center is a response to evolving policies, studying the latest research, and supporting the changing needs of the community.

"The South Education Center reaffirms 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," Pre-K 4 SA Board Chair Elaine Mendoza said. "This collaborative work between all of our partners demonstrates that the program continues to deliver on our promise to families in our community and for those who have the greatest need with an aptitude of strong foundations for success."

<u>G.W. Mitchell</u> served as the contractor on the project. The design team for the project included <u>Pfluger Architects</u>, <u>RDG Planning & Design</u>, <u>CDS Muery</u>, <u>Rialto Studios</u>, <u>Cleary Zimmermann</u>, <u>Combs Consulting Group</u>, and <u>Lundy & Franke Engineering</u>, <u>Inc.</u>

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About Pre-K 4 SA

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. Pre-K 4 SA has four Education Centers located throughout the city, and the Gardendale Early Learning Program, in partnership with Edgewood Independent School District. Pre-K 4 SA also supports over 90 child care providers through the San Antonio Shared Services Alliance. Visit www.prek4sa.com for more information.

City of San Antonio - Vibrant & Thriving

San Antonio is a vibrant city with a thriving economy, deep cultural heritage and communities that are compassionate, inclusive and proudly diverse. It is the seventh largest city in the United States and one of the strongest fiscally managed cities in the country, nurturing entrepreneurship, encouraging investment and funding infrastructure. The City fosters partnership and growth opportunities in aerospace, bioscience, cybersecurity, green technologies, healthcare, and information technology. San Antonio's famed River Walk and Alamo are the top tourist attractions in Texas, and its historic missions are a designated World Heritage Site – the first and only in Texas. Proudly called Military City, USA®, San Antonio is home to one of the largest populations of active-duty military and veterans, as well as mission-critical commands, including military medicine, cybersecurity, pilot training and basic training. For more information, visit SA.gov and follow @COSAGov on social.