



For Immediate Release

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PRE-K 4 SA BRINGS FARMERS MARKET TO YOUNG LEARNERS
*Nutrition education takes center stage as a core curricular innovation
for children and families*

SAN ANTONIO (May 1, 2026) - Pre-K 4 SA's partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank represents a bold curricular innovation that embeds nutrition as a core value for children and families, and equips them with the tools to live happier, healthier lives.

As the food service provider for Pre-K 4 SA, the San Antonio Food Bank provides two healthful meals and snacks to children each school day. Through this collaboration, children also participate in hands-on farmers markets that allow them to discover the joy of trying new fruits and vegetables, learn practical math skills, and build a sense of community. The markets are a natural extension of Pre-K 4 SA's nutrition curriculum, which includes the CHEF program. Children grow and harvest their own produce in outdoor classroom garden beds and learn firsthand about the journey of food from seed to table. With guidance from experienced gardeners, the children use the produce to make simple recipes and learn basic concepts of sustainability and science.

The vibrant farmers markets are set up at all four Pre-K 4 SA education centers, as well as the Gardendale Early Learning Program. At the farmers markets, children select fresh produce in exchange for play money, interact with vendors, and engage all five senses — seeing, smelling, touching, tasting, and hearing the lively sounds of a bustling market. Teachers guide children through the experience, helping them understand where food comes from, introducing new types of produce, and reinforcing math skills through counting, measuring, and sorting.

"Families are invited to return to the markets after school, where they can shop together with their children," Pre-K 4 SA CEO Sarah Baray said. "This creates opportunities for family engagement, conversation, and learning at home, as parents and children explore new recipes and foods together. The experience fosters lasting habits and knowledge that families often continue at home, building a healthier community together."

The San Antonio Food Bank provides locally grown fruits and vegetables, equipment, and staff support, as well as nutrition education, cooking demonstrations, and food samples. Families also receive practical cooking tips and agricultural information, expanding their knowledge and encouraging healthy eating habits.

"This partnership strengthens community connections, promotes hands-on learning, and increases awareness of local agriculture and food systems," San Antonio Food Bank CEO Eric Cooper said. "By integrating nutrition education and interactive farmers markets into the curriculum, Pre-K 4 SA helps children develop confidence, curiosity, and a sense of ownership over the foods they eat."

Key Benefits:

- Encourages healthy eating habits by introducing children to fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Strengthens family engagement through collaborative school activities.
- Supports hands-on learning with nutrition education, cooking demonstrations, and interactive market exploration.
- Builds community connections between families, educators, and the San Antonio Food Bank.
- Increases awareness of local agriculture and food systems, helping children understand where their food comes from.



For more information about Pre-K 4 SA's programs and upcoming farmers markets, visit www.prek4sa.com.

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About Pre-K 4 SA:

[Pre-K 4 SA](http://www.prek4sa.com) 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 children and accepts tuition-paying families. Pre-K 4 SA has four Education Centers located throughout the city, and the Gardendale Early Learning Program, a partnership with Edgewood Independent School District. Pre-K 4 SA supports over 90 child care providers through the San Antonio Shared Services Alliance. Each year since 2018, the [City of San Antonio](http://www.cityofsanantonio.com) has received a gold medal from [CityHealth](http://www.cityhealth.com) for its high-quality, accessible pre-k, which sets the "gold standard" in this policy area. Visit www.prek4sa.com for more information.