



Information Item

Date: December 8, 2025

Division: Learning and Teaching & Assessment

Subject: Early Childhood/PreK Program Evaluation

Background Information:

- According to Texas Education Code § 29.153, a district shall offer prekindergarten classes if the district identifies 15 or more children who are eligible under Subsection (b) and are at least four years of age. A school district may offer prekindergarten classes if the district identifies 15 or more eligible children who are at least three years of age.
- (c) A prekindergarten class under this section may be operated on a half-day basis for children under four years of age and shall be operated on a full-day basis for children who are at least four years of age. A district is not required to provide transportation for a prekindergarten class, but transportation, if provided, is included for funding purposes as part of the regular transportation system.
- Under TEC § 29.153, prekindergarten classes for children who are least four years of age must comply with the program standards required for high quality prekindergarten programs, which are:
 - Curriculum - component certifies that the curriculum used in PK aligns with the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines
 - Progress Monitoring - component supports educators in collecting and utilizing assessment data to inform instruction
 - Teacher Qualifications - component confirms that teachers of young students are well prepared to carry out their important responsibilities
 - Student Teacher Ratio - must attempt to maintain an average ratio in any prekindergarten program class of not less than one certified teacher or teacher's aide for each 11 students. Consistently maintained effective teacher/student ratios allow LEAs to ensure that the needs of all students are met.
 - Family Engagement - strong family engagement is central to promoting children's development and supporting their academic
 - Program Evaluation - continuous improvement is a hallmark of a high-quality prekindergarten program
- A child is eligible for enrollment in a prekindergarten class if they are at least 4 or 3 years old on/before Sept. 1 and meets one or more of the following criteria:
 - Is learning English as a second language
 - Is educationally disadvantaged
 - Is or has ever been in foster care
 - Is a homeless child

- o Is the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States or who was injured or killed while serving in active duty
 - o Dependent of Star of Texas Award recipient
 - o Child of a teacher in the district where their parent teaches (new in 2025-26 via the 89th Legislature HB2)
- According to Texas Education Code § 29.1531, a school district *may* offer on a tuition basis or use district funds to provide an additional half day of prekindergarten to eligible 3-year-old children; and half day and full day prekindergarten classes to children not eligible for classes

Administrative Consideration:

- For the 2025-26 program evaluation, staff evaluated cohort data to determine trends over time for students served in PK.
- All enrolled prekindergarten eligible four-year-old students are served in full day classes district wide. PreK eligible three-year-olds can be enrolled in tuition based Discovery Academy as well as ECSE three-year-olds who both do or do not qualify for prekindergarten.
- LISD has both types of prekindergarten programs described by statute: PreK for state eligible four-year-old children and tuition-based PreK for non state eligible.
- At the time of 2025-26 PEIMS Snapshot date, Oct. 31, 2025, all EC Programs enrollment is 1,264 (1,160 PreK eligible and 104 ECSE students who do not qualify for PreK).
- Plans are underway to provide a third annual, district wide, Spring PreK enrollment event May, 2026 to support enrollment for the 2026-27 school year.
- As a result of school retirements, 9 PreK classes were relocated to new campuses in 2025-26 also resulting in 16 total campuses having PreK classes in 2025-26.
- With the proposed addition of a second Early Childhood campus to serve the Lewisville High School feeder, the number of elementary campuses with PreK in 2026-27 will decrease, while providing ample space for all PreK eligible children within the LISD to enroll and experience the same outstanding early childhood learning environment provided at Lillie J. Jackson ECC.
- Through House Bill 2, the 89th Legislature created a new PreK eligibility for children of teachers in the district where the parent teaches, added an additional 0.01 multiplier to the Early Education Allotment on all K-3 enrolled students to help fund the remaining half of full day PreK, and prohibits districts from offering tuition PreK programs effective for the 2027-28 school year, unless the district receives an official determination from a commissioner appointed PreK partnership intermediary that no private providers meet the qualifications to serve the students.
 - o The 2024-25 Early Ed Allotment was \$5,182,143 and the district spent \$8,280,528 on state required prekindergarten. The 2025-26 Early Ed Allotment is projected to be \$5,693,082 and the district's prekindergarten expenditures are \$9,021,192 with an underfunded difference of \$3,328,110.