

# TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

## HB3 | FULL-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN

### SUMMARY

House Bill 3 requires that full-day prekindergarten be provided for all eligible four-year old children. Prekindergarten may be operated on a half-day basis for children under four years of age.

### EXEMPTION CONDITIONS

Exemptions may be granted if it is determined that:

1. The local education agency (LEA) would be required to construct classroom facilities in order to provide prekindergarten classes; or
2. Implementation would result in fewer eligible children being enrolled in prekindergarten

A district may not receive an exemption unless the district has solicited and considered, at a public meeting, proposals for partnerships with public or private entities regarding offering full-day prekindergarten for eligible four-year-old students.

Additionally, before a district or open-enrollment charter school may construct, repurpose, or lease a classroom facility, or issue bonds for the construction or repurposing of a classroom facility, the district or school must solicit and consider proposals for partnerships with public or private community-based childcare providers who meet **one** of the following eligibility requirements:

- Are a Texas Rising Star program provider with a three-star certification or higher
- Are nationally accredited
- Are a Head Start program provider
- Are a Texas School Ready! participant
- Meet the requirements under Section 29.1532
  - Section 29.1532: If a school district contracts with a private entity for the operation of the district's prekindergarten program, the program must at a minimum comply with the applicable child-care licensing standards adopted by the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services under Section 42.042, Human Resources Code

A decision of the board of trustees regarding a partnership described by this subsection is final.

### EXEMPTION OPTIONS

If the conditions above are met, LEAs may apply for a one-, two-, or three-year exemption from full-day prekindergarten. An exemption may not be granted for a period longer than three school years and may be renewed only once.

The exemption from full-day prekindergarten also allows LEAs to waive one or more of the high-quality prekindergarten components. LEAs should follow the submission instructions below.

### SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Exemptions for first time applicants or for those renewing their exemption will be available the summer before each school year.

The following information must be included in the exemption request:

- LEA contact name, phone and email
- Date of LEA Board Meeting
- Exemption Condition
- Date of Public Meeting
- Did your LEA solicit partnership opportunities? Yes/No
- Did your LEA receive proposals for partnerships? Yes/No
- Did your LEA consider the proposals for the partnership it received? Yes/No
- If yes, type of partnership and number of solicitations received

Type	Number of Solicitations
Texas Rising Star 3+ Star Certification	
Nationally Accredited	
Head Start	
Texas School Ready	
Met the requirements of TEC 29.1532	
Other	

- Requested Years: (select requested years)

### **High-Quality Prekindergarten Component Exemption**

An LEA who requests an exemption from full-day prekindergarten will have the option to request an exemption from one or more of the high-quality prekindergarten components. LEAs should follow the submission instructions below.

1. After requesting exemption from full-day prekindergarten, complete the "High-Quality Prekindergarten Component Exemption" form to request an exemption from one or more of the high-quality prekindergarten components.
2. Board approval is needed for exemption of one or more of the high-quality prekindergarten components.
  - a. For LEAs requesting exemption from full-day prekindergarten for the first time, the request for exemption from full-day prekindergarten and the high-quality components can be taken to the board at the same time.
  - b. For LEAs with an existing approved full-day prekindergarten exemption, an additional board approval will be needed for exemption of one or more of the high-quality prekindergarten components.

The following information must be included in the exemption request:

- LEA contact name, phone, and email
- Status of LEA's full-day prekindergarten exemption
- Indication of which high-quality prekindergarten components the LEA is requesting exemption from
- Date of LEA Board Meeting

The TEA Early Childhood Division will notify the contact person listed on the "High-Quality Prekindergarten Component Exemption" form by email regarding the approval of the requested exemption of the high-quality prekindergarten components within 30 days of submission.