

Rider 78 and FSP Formula Funding for High-Quality Prekindergarten Programs: FAQs

1. Does Rider 78 provide additional funding for the upcoming biennium?

No.

2. Do we need to apply for the Rider 78 FSP funds through the eGrants system?

No, the funding referenced in Rider 78 are existing FSP funds that districts and charter schools generate based on four-year-old Pre-kindergarten Average Daily Attendance (ADA). It is expected that at least 15% of Pre-K FSP funds are used towards implementing high-quality prekindergarten components.

3. Are districts and charters expected to spend 15% of existing prekindergarten ADA funding on high-quality components specified by Rider 78?

Yes, districts and charters are expected to spend at least 15% of Pre-K FSP to implement the high-quality prekindergarten components.

4. Will TEA be monitoring the 15%?

TEA will implement monitoring as necessary to ensure districts and charters meet Rider 78 expectations.

5. What consequence will be imposed on districts/charters that do not spend 15% as described in the Rider?

Rider 78 specifies that districts and charters implement high-quality components in TEC Chapter 29, Subchapter E. Based on the results of TEA's monitoring of district and charter school expenditures, TEA will provide additional guidance as necessary.

6. Is the estimated amount for the biennium or for one school year?

The \$236 million is the total for the biennium. Therefore, the [amounts included in the list](#) for districts and charters are for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years combined.

7. What previous school year/s of funding served as the basis for calculating the 15% in the [example provided by TEA](#)?

Projections for the upcoming biennium were based off 2015-16 and 2016-17 school year data.

8. Are three-year-olds included in the calculation?

No. The calculation includes four-year-old prekindergarten children only.

9. How can districts and charters separate their four-year-old Pre-K FSP funding from their total FSP funding to estimate the 15% funding for the upcoming school year?

Districts and charters should identify the key staff member(s) in their budget or finance team to assist with the 15% funding calculation for high-quality prekindergarten. Districts/charters can use their state funding template with all district students for their base funding scenario. Districts/charters should be able to estimate the ADA generated by their four-year-old prekindergarten population. Next, they should subtract the projected prekindergarten ADA from their total ADA and run their state funding template with those students excluded.

The difference between the two funding scenarios is a reasonable estimate of the funding generated by their four-year-old prekindergarten students.

Attendance Projections:

http://tea.texas.gov/Finance_and_Grants/State_Funding/Additional_Finance_Resources/Attendance_Projections/

FSP Resources:

[State Aid Template, 2015–16 and 2016–17 Biennium, Version 8 \(2.5 MB\)](#)

10. If I have questions regarding calculation of the 15% or other funding questions, who should I contact at TEA?

Rick Kendrick with the School Finance Division at 512 463 6220 or Rick.Kendrick@tea.texas.gov

11. Should districts and charters use the calculation from the [spreadsheet from the TAA Correspondence Letter](#) as their 15% allocation for high-quality prekindergarten spending?

The district and charter calculations listed in the spreadsheet from the TAA Correspondence Letter are estimates based on the amount defined in Rider 78. Districts should develop their own calculations based on four-year-old prekindergarten ADA funding generated in the 2017-18 school year.

12. Can the total 15% FSP allocation be used in the 2017-2018 school year?

Districts and charters are expected to spend at least 15% of their Pre-K FSP funds in the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years on implementing high-quality prekindergarten components. The estimated amounts in the document released with the TAA Correspondence Letter represent the total amount for both years.

13. Do districts and charters need to track their expenditures?

Districts and charter schools should follow their locally-designed accounting practices for tracking expenditures associated with Rider 78.

14. Will TEA be providing guidance for implementation of the prekindergarten high-quality components?

Yes, TEA currently provides resources and support and will expand these efforts during the upcoming school year. Visit the [High-Quality Prekindergarten Program page](#) and/or the links in the table below for more information.

High-Quality PreK Programs	Resources and Support
TEC §29.167, Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines• Currently Adopted Instructional Materials (Curriculum) for PreK Learning Systems adopted by the State Board of Education (SBOE).• Curriculum guidance (§102.1003, Section C)• CLI Engage for Classroom Activities for Teachers

<p>TEC §29.167, Prekindergarten Progress Monitoring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner’s List of Approved Prekindergarten and Kindergarten (Updated 7/12/17) Assessment Instruments 2017-2021 • Prekindergarten Progress Monitoring and Kindergarten Assessment Instrument guidance per §102.1003. Section D • CLI Engage for CIRCLE Progress Monitoring (no cost)
<p>TEC §29.167, Teacher Qualifications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher Qualifications guidance per §102.1003. Section E
<p>TEC §29.168, Family Engagement Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Engagement guidance per §102.1003. Section F • CLI Engage, Parents
<p>TEC §29.169, Program Evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Quality Prekindergarten Self-Assessment • Program Evaluation guidance per §102.1003. Section H • CLI Engage for CIRCLE Progress Monitoring (no cost) • CLI Engage for Texas Kindergarten Entry Assessment (TX-KEA) (no cost) • Commissioner’s List of Approved Prekindergarten and Kindergarten (Updated 7/12/17) Assessment Instruments 2017-2021
<p>TEC §29.171, Eligible Private Providers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLI Engage, Early Childhood Partnerships