

Early Childhood Education Guidance: Section Topics

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Full-Day Prekindergarten Waiver

Districts that will reopen for school year 2020-2021 with a shortened instructional day that does not meet the full-day requirement (75,600 minutes/year) may need to request an exemption from full-day prekindergarten. Districts can access the process for the [Full-day Prekindergarten Waiver](#) on the State Waivers page of the TEA website.

When completing the Full-day Prekindergarten Waiver application for reopening with a modified daily schedule, districts should choose the exemption condition that states: *Implementation would result in fewer eligible children being enrolled in prekindergarten.*

Prekindergarten Registration

Prekindergarten Registration for 2020-2021 School Year & COVID-19:

Many districts preregister prekindergarten students to plan for the size of the next school year's program. Districts may begin this process on or after April 1 of each year, and once a child is determined to be eligible, he/she remains eligible without reverification prior to the next school year. Section 7, *Student Attendance Accounting Handbook*. Despite these preregistration requirements, districts may conduct pre-identification of students for planning purposes prior to April 1.

In response to COVID-19, districts may adapt their prekindergarten registration in the following ways:

- Delay/postpone prekindergarten registration
- Collect applicable information online (if possible)
- Implement a virtual registration (to the extent possible)
- Use the 2019-2020 income guidelines until the 2020-2021 income deadlines are released. Families that are close to the income threshold (too high or too low) should be documented and notified if eligible once the updated income guidelines are released

The prekindergarten eligibility information must be verified between April 1st and prior to a child being placed in a classroom for the 2020-2021 school year to generate state prekindergarten funds.

Please note: TEA has requested a waiver from the U. S. Department of Education for local determinations to be used to guide English learner exit determinations/reclassifications this year. Further guidance on this will be posted to the [COVID-19](#) and [BIL/ESL](#) page.

Prekindergarten Eligibility

1. What impact does the COVID-related situation have on applying the “educationally disadvantaged” eligibility criterion for prekindergarten enrollment? **Posted April 23, 2020**

None. The educationally disadvantaged eligibility criterion (student is eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program) for prekindergarten remains the same. Districts and open-enrollment charters are encouraged to use the following resources to find answers to their specific questions regarding this prekindergarten eligibility criteria:

- District nutrition personnel
- [Student Attendance Accounting Handbook, Section 7](#)
- [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\) Handbook: Administrator’s Reference Manual](#)
- [General prekindergarten FAQs located on TEA’s website, specifically # 16 - 24](#)

Districts and open-enrollment charters should anticipate a larger number of students qualifying for prekindergarten under this eligibility criterion due to the economic impact of COVID.

Please note: A student who qualifies for prekindergarten because he/she meets the educationally disadvantaged eligibility criterion (he/she is eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program) at the time of enrollment remains eligible for the entire school year, even if the family’s annual income increases above the qualifying level during year.

2. We have families who are requesting to enroll in prekindergarten. Do you have guidance for qualifying students for PK as an English Learner student for *the current school year*? **Posted April 23, 2020**

Please refer to the **English Learner Guidance (TELPAS and LPAC) FAQ** on TEA’s [COVID-19](#) web page.