



## 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/](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](mailto: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
<p><b>TEC §29.167, Curriculum</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Currently Adopted Instructional Materials (Curriculum)</a> for PreK Learning Systems adopted by the State Board of Education (SBOE).</li> <li>• <a href="#">Curriculum guidance</a> (§102.1003, Section C)</li> <li>• <a href="#">CLI Engage</a> for Classroom Activities for Teachers</li> </ul>
<p><b>TEC §29.167, Prekindergarten Progress Monitoring</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner’s List of Approved <a href="#">Prekindergarten</a> and <a href="#">Kindergarten</a> (Updated 7/12/17) Assessment Instruments 2017-2021</li> <li>• <a href="#">Prekindergarten Progress Monitoring and Kindergarten Assessment Instrument guidance</a> per §102.1003. Section D</li> <li>• <a href="#">CLI Engage</a> for CIRCLE Progress Monitoring (no cost)</li> </ul>
<p><b>TEC §29.167, Teacher Qualifications</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Teacher Qualifications guidance</a> per §102.1003. Section E</li> </ul>
<p><b>TEC §29.168, Family Engagement Plan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Family Engagement guidance</a> per §102.1003. Section F</li> <li>• <a href="#">CLI Engage, Parents</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>TEC §29.169, Program Evaluation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">High Quality Prekindergarten Self-Assessment</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Program Evaluation guidance</a> per §102.1003. Section H</li> <li>• <a href="#">CLI Engage</a> for CIRCLE Progress Monitoring (no cost)</li> <li>• <a href="#">CLI Engage</a> for Texas Kindergarten Entry Assessment (TX-KEA) (no cost)</li> <li>• Commissioner’s List of Approved <a href="#">Prekindergarten</a> and <a href="#">Kindergarten</a> (Updated 7/12/17) Assessment Instruments 2017-2021</li> </ul>
<p><b>TEC §29.171, Eligible Private Providers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">CLI Engage, Early Childhood Partnerships</a></li> </ul>



## October 4, 2017 Update

### 15. Question: What expenditures can be counted as part of the 15% referenced in the Rider?

The Rider specifies that school districts and charter schools are expected to spend no less than 15% of their FSP funding to implement the high-quality prekindergarten components established in TEC 29.167 – 29.171. Expenditures are considered allowable if they focus on increasing the quality of the prekindergarten program in the areas of curriculum, student progress monitoring, teacher qualifications and professional development, student-to-teacher ratio, family engagement, program evaluation and/or data reporting.

Prekindergarten High-Quality Component	Expenditures that can be included in 15%
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Curriculum</b></p> <p><i>It is expected that expenditures are associated with a prekindergarten curriculum that addresses all components of the 2015 TX Prekindergarten Guidelines.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs associated with curriculum implementation, i.e. curricular kits/collections, games, teacher guides, etc.</li> <li>• Curricular support materials/equipment, i.e. books, manipulatives, classroom furniture, etc.</li> <li>• Supplemental curriculum</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Student Progress Monitoring</b></p> <p><i>It is expected that expenditures are associated with the use of a student progress monitoring tool that addresses all five primary developmental domains and is on the 2017-2021 Commissioner’s List of Approved Assessment Instruments.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs associated with implementing student progress monitoring, i.e. tool charges per students, printing costs, etc.</li> <li>• Substitute costs to allow teachers to conduct student progress monitoring</li> <li>• Technology tools/equipment to conduct student progress monitoring</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Teacher Qualifications/Professional Development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs associated with achieving or maintaining an “additional qualification,” i.e. costs associated with getting a CDA, etc.</li> <li>• Costs associated with any early childhood education-specific professional development done for prekindergarten teachers and/or paraprofessionals</li> <li>• Costs associated with implementing prekindergarten mentoring/coaching as part of the district’s/charter’s prekindergarten professional development activities, i.e. training of prekindergarten mentors/coaches, salaries of prekindergarten mentors/coaches, etc.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Student-to-Teacher Ratio</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All paraprofessional salaries</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Family Engagement</b></p> <p><i>It is expected that all expenditures are associated with a developed and implemented Family Engagement Plan that includes the six expected activity types.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any costs associated with prekindergarten family engagement activities, i.e. meeting costs, speaker costs, printing costs, etc.</li> <li>• Family engagement personnel salaries (prekindergarten family engagement must be sole job responsibility)</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Program Evaluation</b></p> <p><i>It is expected that all expenditures are associated with a prekindergarten program evaluation that includes, at a minimum, student outcomes data.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs associated with conducting a program evaluation, i.e. meeting costs, printing costs, etc.</li> <li>• Costs associated with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party evaluator</li> <li>• Costs associated with informing parents of the results of the program evaluation, i.e. meeting costs, printing costs, etc.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Data Reporting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no costs associated with this high-quality component</li> </ul>



**16. Can prekindergarten teachers' salaries be counted as part of the 15% referenced in the Rider?**

No, prekindergarten teachers' salaries cannot be counted as part of the 15% referenced in the Rider. Expenditures are considered allowable if they focus on increasing the quality of the prekindergarten program serving eligible 4-year-old children in areas of curriculum, student progress monitoring, teacher qualifications and professional development, student-to-teacher ratio, family engagement, program evaluation and/or data reporting.

**17. If a district decided to offer a full-day prekindergarten program to increase the quality of their services to prekindergarten eligible children and families, can ½ of the prekindergarten teacher's salary be counted as part of the 15% referenced in the Rider?**

No, if a school district or charter school chooses to fund full-day services to prekindergarten eligible children, ½ of the prekindergarten teacher's salary cannot be counted as part of the 15% referenced in Rider 78. Rider 78 is associated with the portion of the prekindergarten day that is funded with FSP funds; it does not apply to the portion of the prekindergarten day that uses funding other than FSP.

**18. Can a prekindergarten mentor's/coach's salary be counted as part of the 15% referenced in the Rider?**

Yes, a prekindergarten mentor's/coach's salary who works with prekindergarten teachers assigned to teach eligible 4-year-olds can be counted as part of the 15% referenced in the Rider. If a mentor/coach is assigned to multiple grade levels, only the portion of their salary that is focused on mentoring/coaching prekindergarten teachers who teach eligible 4-year-olds can be counted as part of the 15% reference in the Rider.

**19. Can a portion of an experienced prekindergarten classroom teacher's salary, who serves as prekindergarten mentor/coach within the prekindergarten program, be counted towards the 15%?**

The portion of the teacher's salary that is associated with being a prekindergarten mentor/coach can be counted as part of the 15% referenced in Rider 78. Prekindergarten mentoring/coaching must be the primary role of the prekindergarten teacher during the salaried time that is counted as part of the 15%. The portion of a prekindergarten teacher's salary that is devoted to classroom instruction cannot be counted as part of the 15% referenced in Rider 78.

**20. If a district or charter school decides to open an additional prekindergarten classroom, can the teacher's salary be counted as part of the 15% referenced in Rider 78?**

If the additional classroom reduces the overall student-to-teacher ratio for the prekindergarten program, the new teacher's salary can be counted towards the 15%. If the additional classroom maintains or increases the existing student-to-teacher ratio (due to increased enrollment) the new teacher's salary cannot be counted towards the 15%.



**21. Does the additional teacher qualification in Rider 78 pertain to PPCD teachers?**

The additional teacher qualification applies to any teacher who is the lead teacher in a class that includes at least one eligible 4-year-old student who is generating half-day ADA FSP funding.