



The Texas Education Agency (TEA) oversees free public prekindergarten for eligible children in school districts and charter schools.

## \*\*Benefits\*\*

At TEA, our goal is for all Texas children to enter school with the foundational knowledge and skills to be curious, confident and successful learners. Learn more about public prekindergarten eligibility below.

## \*\*Eligibility Requirements\*\*

A child is eligible for enrollment in free prekindergarten if the child is at least three (if a prekindergarten 3 program is available) or at least four years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> and meets at least one of the following criteria:

- Is unable to speak or comprehend the English language
- Is eligible to participate in the national free or reduced-price lunch program
- Is homeless
- Is the child of an active-duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or the reserves
- Is the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or the reserves, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty
- Is or ever has been in foster care
- Is the child of a peace officer, firefighter, or emergency medical responder seriously injured or killed in the line of duty and received the Star of Texas Award.

Once determined eligible, the student remains eligible for the entire school year. Verification of eligibility cannot be determined until on or after April 1<sup>st</sup> of the prior school year when planning for the upcoming school year. Parents of students who are ineligible for free public prekindergarten can inquire about tuition-based prekindergarten or visit [www.EarlyChildhood.Texas.gov](http://www.EarlyChildhood.Texas.gov) for information on other programs and options in Texas.

## \*\*Registration\*\*

Registration processes vary among individual school districts and charter schools. To learn more, contact the Early Childhood Education Division via the Support Portal. We can assist you with questions and connect you to the school district or charter school in your area. Other ways to get support:

- Visit your local school district or charter school website or contact their office for enrollment information.
- Gather required documentation (birth certificate, proof of residency, parent id, immunization records, and other eligibility documents)

*Supporting curious, confident, and successful learners!*

Need assistance? Contact the Early Childhood team via our Support Portal

