

The background of the slide features a blue-tinted image. On the left, a Texas state flag is partially visible, showing the white star on a blue field. The rest of the background is a blurred photograph of a classroom with children sitting at tables.

Governor's Task Force on the Governance of Early Childhood Education and Care

High-Quality Prekindergarten

High-Quality Prekindergarten (HQPK)

TEA supports school systems to implement high-quality prekindergarten programs that include the following components:



Curriculum – high-quality instructional materials aligned to the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines



Family Engagement - central to promoting children's development and supporting their academic achievement



Progress monitoring – supports educators in collecting and using assessment data to inform instruction



Program Evaluation - Continuous improvement is a hallmark of a high-quality prekindergarten program



Teacher Qualifications - confirms that teachers of young students are well prepared to carry out their important responsibilities



Student-Teacher Ratios - Consistently maintained effective teacher/student ratios allow LEAs to ensure that the needs of all students are met

Statute: [TEC, Subchapter E-1](#)

<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/early-childhood-education/prekindergarten>

The curriculum used in a prekindergarten classroom must be aligned with the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines



A school district or an open-enrollment charter school shall implement a curriculum for a HQPK program that addresses the current Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines (TPG).

[TEC §29.167\(a\)](#)

State Board of Education adopted curricula have been reviewed for alignment with the TPGs.

Benchmark Education: Ready to Advance Early Learning Program Texas
Benchmark Education: Listos Y Adelante Early Learning Texas
CLI: CIRCLE Pre-K Curriculum
CLI: CIRCLE Pre-K Curriculum: Spanish Edition
Children's Literacy Initiative Blueprint For Early Learning
EDUSPARK Pre-K System
Sistema EDUSPARK Pre-K
Frog Street: Pre-K 2020 English
Frog Street: Pre-K 2020 Spanish
The Highscope Curriculum
Kaplan Early Learning Company: Connect4Learning: The Pre-K Curriculum

Kaplan Early Learning Company: Connect4Learning: The Pre-K Curriculum (Spanish)
Learning Without Tears: Get Set For School Complete Pre-K Program
Learning Without Tears: Programa Completo De Prekinder Get Set For School
Quaver Pre-K Curriculum
The Early Childhood Company: Investigator Club
The Early Childhood Company: Investigator Club Spanish
Savvas Learning Company: Three Cheers For Pre-K Essentials Package - Texas Edition
Savvas Learning Company: Uno, Dos, Tres Prekinder! Essentials Package- Texas Edition
Scholastic Inc.: Prek On My Way
Scholastic Inc.: Prek On My Way En Espanol

Teaching Strategies LLC: The Creative Curriculum® For Texas
Teaching Strategies LLC: El Currículo Creativo Para Texas
TPS Publishing Inc.: STEAM Themes: A Clear And Concise STEAM Program For Prekindergarten Teaching - Print
TPS Publishing Inc.: STEAM Themes: A Clear And Concise STEAM Program For Prekindergarten Teaching - Print With Online
TPS Publishing Inc.: STEAM Themes: A Clear And Concise STEAM Program For Prekindergarten Teaching - Online
TPS Publishing Inc.: Live And Learn: A Prekindergarten Program - Print
TPS Publishing Inc.: Live And Learn: A Prekindergarten Program - Print With Online
TPS Publishing Inc.: Live And Learn: A Prekindergarten Program - Only Online

A family engagement plan must be made available on a school system's website each school year

A school district or an open-enrollment charter school shall **develop, implement, and make available** a family engagement plan on the district, charter, or campus website by **November 1** of each school year.

The family engagement plan must:

Facilitate family-to-family support	Establish a network of community resources	Increase family participation in decision-making	Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning	Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks	Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement	Include a primary point of contact and contact information
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Prekindergarten teachers must be appropriately certified and meet an additional qualification

Each teacher for a prekindergarten program class must be appropriately certified and have one additional qualification.

(Teachers in a partnership classroom are not required to be certified but must still have an additional qualification.)

Additional qualification options for teachers in a LEA-provided prekindergarten classroom:	
1.	Certification offered through a training center accredited by Association Montessori Internationale or through the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education
2.	Be employed as a prekindergarten teacher in a school district that has ensured specific prekindergarten professional development has been met: 1. Has completed 150 hours of professional development in ECE-specific topics over a consecutive five-year period; 75 of the 150 hours being in a mentoring/coaching relationship or; 2. Completes 30 hours of ECE-specific professional development annually with 15 of the 30 hours being in a mentoring/coaching relationship until 150 hours are documented
3.	A Child Development Associate (CDA) credential
4.	Documented completion of the Texas School Ready Training Program (TSR Comprehensive)
5.	*An associate or baccalaureate degree in ECE, Special Education-ECE or a non-ECE degree with 15 units of ECE-specific coursework
6.	*At least eight years' experience of teaching in a nationally accredited child care program or Texas Rising Star Program

TEA measures quality using prekindergarten progress monitoring and kindergarten readiness data

Prekindergarten

Student progress monitoring must be conducted at the beginning, middle, and end of year in five required domains using a commissioner-approved instrument.

- Health and wellness
- Emergent literacy- language and communication
- Emergent literacy- reading
- Emergent literacy- writing
- Mathematics

Approved Prekindergarten Progress Monitoring Instruments

CIRCLE Progress Monitoring
by CLI
**offered at no cost to LEAs*



Frog Street
Assessment
by Frog Street



GOLD by Teaching
Strategies, LLC



LION for
Prekindergarten
by Liberty Source



CPALLS+STEM by CLI
(administered through TANGO
Software)



COR Advantage by
HighScope
Educational Research Foundation



Kindergarten

Kindergarten readiness is currently measured through one of two commissioner-approved kindergarten reading instruments administered to all kindergarten students at the beginning of the school year.

Approved Kindergarten Reading Instruments

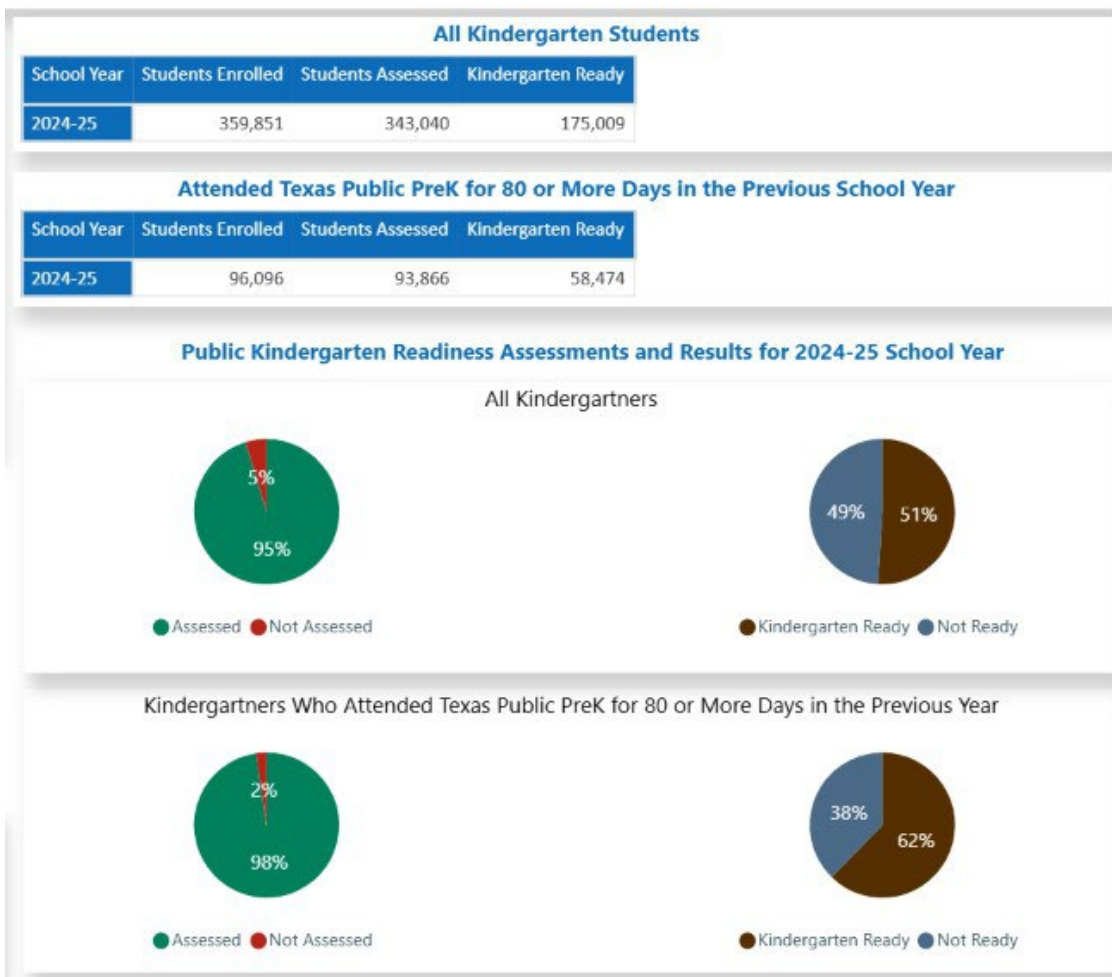


CIRCLE Kindergarten
Progress Monitoring
by CLI



mCLASS Texas
by Amplify

Just over 50% of public school students demonstrate kindergarten readiness



Children who attend public prekindergarten demonstrate readiness at a higher percentage

School systems must evaluate their high-quality pre-k programs annually



School systems must select and implement a method for evaluating their high-quality prekindergarten program.



A Program evaluation must use data from the student progress monitoring instrument.



School systems must use the program evaluation to plan for data-driven improvements annually.



Results from the program evaluation must be made available to parents.

TEA offers a program evaluation tool that school systems may use for this component.

Access / Enrollment			
Strategies	Developing	Proficient	Exemplary
Eligible 4-Year-Olds	Fewer than 50% of eligible 4-year-olds in the community, including 4-year-old children with disabilities and multilingual learners, are enrolled in an LEA-provided or LEA-partnership prekindergarten program.	Between 50 and 75% of eligible 4-year-olds in the community, including 4-year-old children with disabilities and multilingual learners, are enrolled in an LEA-provided or LEA-partnership prekindergarten program.	More than 75% of eligible 4-year-olds in the community, including 4-year-old children with disabilities and multilingual learners, are enrolled in an LEA-provided or LEA-partnership prekindergarten program.

Curriculum			
Strategies	Developing	Proficient	Exemplary
Curriculum	LEA's prekindergarten curriculum aligns with all of the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines. TEC 29.167; 19 TAC 102.1003 (b) LEGAL REQUIREMENT	LEA's prekindergarten curriculum aligns with all of the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines. The curriculum explicitly guides teachers to address the needs of each student.	LEA's prekindergarten curriculum aligns with all of the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines. The curriculum explicitly guides teachers to address the needs of each student. The effectiveness of the curriculum to maximize kindergarten readiness is evaluated annually.
Scope and Sequence	LEA-wide scope and sequence (for 3-year-old and 4-year-old students) is developed and implemented to ensure that most concepts and skills in the ten domains of the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines are introduced, reinforced and practiced within the prekindergarten year.	LEA-wide scope and sequence (for 3-year-old and 4-year-old students) is developed and implemented to ensure that all concepts and skills in the ten domains of the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines are introduced, reinforced and practiced within the prekindergarten year.	LEA-wide scope and sequence (for 3-year-old and 4-year-old students) is developed, implemented and evaluated annually to ensure that all concepts and skills in the ten domains of the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines are introduced, reinforced and practiced within the prekindergarten year.
Curricular Integration	LEA provides teachers with resources to support curricular integration across most of the domains in the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines.	LEA provides teachers with resources to support curricular integration across all ten domains in the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines.	LEA provides teachers with resources to support curricular integration across all ten domains in the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines and in all learning centers.
Vertical Alignment	Strong, consistent vertical alignment across prekindergarten to grade 2 curriculum and instruction (monolingual and bilingual) is achieved through an annual joint planning meeting to understand what is taught, how it is taught and how it is assessed at each grade level.	Strong, consistent vertical alignment across prekindergarten to grade 2 curriculum and instruction (monolingual and bilingual) is achieved through two joint planning meetings annually to understand what is taught, how it is taught and how it is assessed at each grade level.	Strong, consistent vertical alignment across prekindergarten to grade 2 curriculum and instruction (monolingual and bilingual) is achieved through three joint planning meetings annually to understand what is taught, how it is taught and how it is assessed at each grade level.
Horizontal Alignment	Teachers' routine grade-level planning meetings support horizontal alignment of the curriculum and instruction between prekindergarten classrooms.	Teachers' routine grade-level planning meetings support horizontal alignment of the curriculum and instruction between prekindergarten classrooms as evidenced by common curricular goals, themes/units/projects, routines and schedules.	Teachers' routine grade-level planning meetings support horizontal alignment of the curriculum and instruction between prekindergarten classrooms as evidenced by common curricular goals, themes/units/projects, routines and schedules. Planning meetings include a review of assessment data.

year-olds in the community, including 4-year-old children with disabilities and multilingual learners, are enrolled in an LEA-provided or LEA-partnership prekindergarten program.

family or caregiver outreach activities of the value provided or LEA-partnership prekindergarten program, including an annual extended hours to address and provides families in a manner they

nt process that enables LEA to acquire the (e.g. birth certificate).

High-quality prekindergarten indicators align with broader K-12 requirements and quality expectations

The Texas Pre-K Guidelines are regularly updated to align with the kindergarten TEKS for all relevant subject areas.

Pre-K instructional materials go through the same review and approval process as all other K-12 materials.

Teachers must meet certification requirements comparable to other grade levels and must meet an additional qualification (except for partnership classrooms).

The statutory class size limit that applies to K-grade 4 classrooms now applies to prekindergarten.

Mathematics Vertical Alignment, *Prekindergarten – Grade 2*

	Prekindergarten-PK3/PK4	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2
Standards	Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines	Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)	Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)	Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)

Language and Literacy Vertical Alignment, *Prekindergarten – Grade 2*

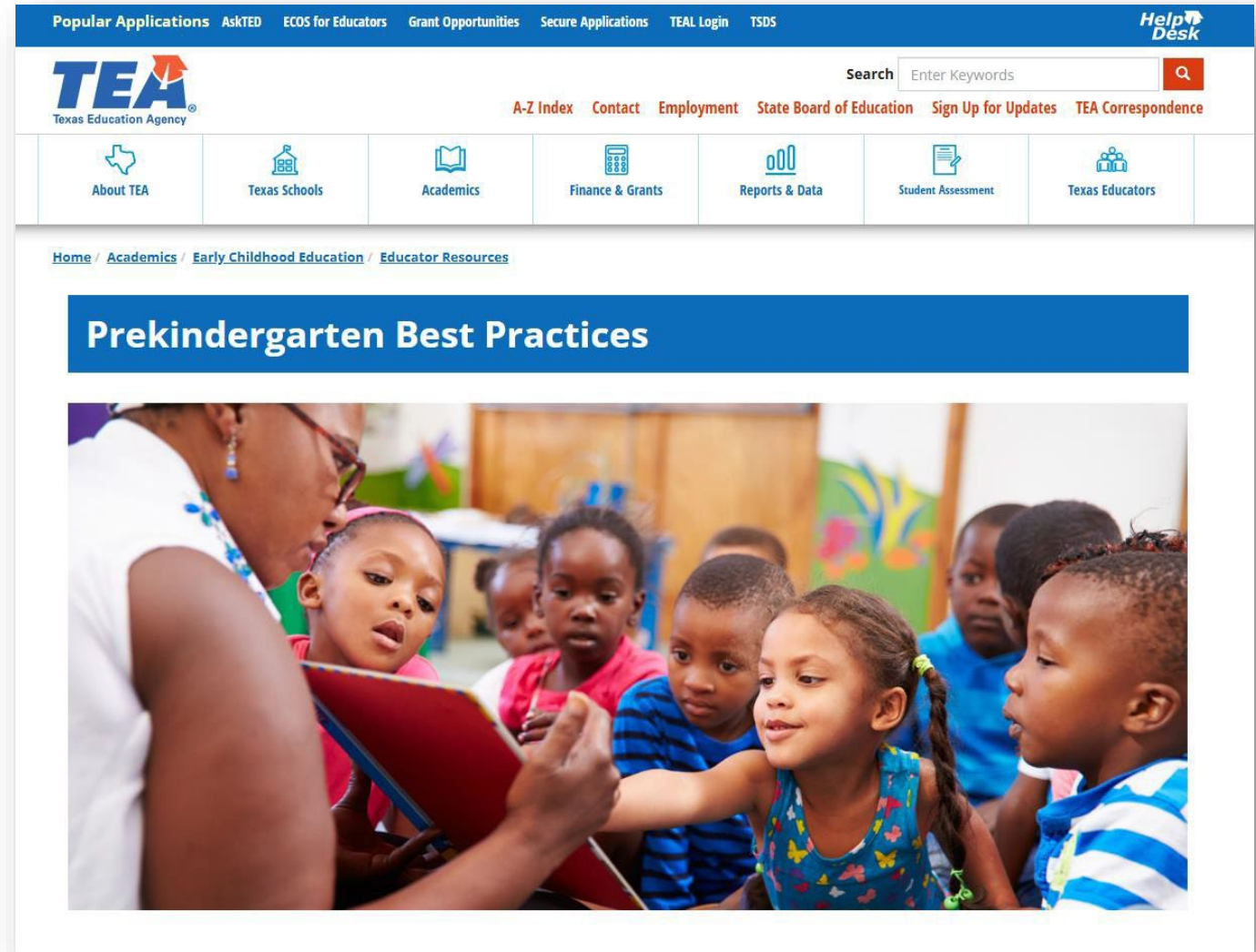
	Prekindergarten- PK3/PK4	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2
Standards	Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines	Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills	Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills	Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

Science Vertical Alignment, *Prekindergarten – Grade 2*

	Prekindergarten-PK4**	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2
Standards	Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines	Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)*	Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)*	Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)*
Domain / Content Area	VI. Science Domain *V. Mathematics Domain	Science	Science	Science
Sub-Domains / Strands	A. Physical Science B. Life Science C. Earth and Space Science *E. Classifications and Patterns	1. Scientific and Engineering Practices 2. Recurring Themes and Concepts 3. Matter and Its Properties 4. Force, Motion, and Energy 5. Earth and Space 6. Organisms and Environments	1. Scientific and Engineering Practices 2. Recurring Themes and Concepts 3. Matter and Its Properties 4. Force, Motion, and Energy 5. Earth and Space 6. Organisms and Environments	1. Scientific and Engineering Practices 2. Recurring Themes and Concepts 3. Matter and Its Properties 4. Force, Motion, and Energy 5. Earth and Space 6. Organisms and Environments

Website resources help parents understand high-quality prekindergarten

As part of an agency website redesign, parent-facing content will be updated to provide parents with the additional information related to prekindergarten including best practices in prekindergarten classrooms.



The screenshot displays the TEA website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Popular Applications, AskTED, ECOS for Educators, Grant Opportunities, Secure Applications, TEAL Login, and TSDS. A Help Desk icon is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar is the TEA logo and a search bar with the placeholder text 'Enter Keywords'. A secondary navigation bar contains links for A-Z Index, Contact, Employment, State Board of Education, Sign Up for Updates, and TEA Correspondence. A main menu bar features icons and labels for About TEA, Texas Schools, Academics, Finance & Grants, Reports & Data, Student Assessment, and Texas Educators. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home / Academics / Early Childhood Education / Educator Resources. The main content area features a blue header with the text 'Prekindergarten Best Practices' and a photograph of a teacher interacting with a group of young children in a classroom.

Parent Guides are available to support families' understanding of prekindergarten learning outcomes

Prekindergarten 3

Understanding What Your Child Will Learn

Prekindergarten 3 will be a fun and engaging experience for your child. Your child will learn many skills which will lay a foundation for future learning. Below is a summary of what your child will learn this school year.



Language & Literacy

Listen

- **Learning Goals:** Follow two or three step directions during activities such as setting the table, playing, or cleaning up. Have short conversations with expected words and phrases.
- **Learning Strategies:** Play games with multiple steps. Listen to stories and directions from adults. Play with friends.

Read

- **Learning Goals:** Enjoy being read to and exploring books. Name familiar characters or events from books. Guess what happens next in a story.
- **Learning Strategies:** Participate in story time and choose their own books. Point out familiar letters and words such as labels, logos, or street signs.

Write

- **Learning Goals:** Make scribbles, line marks, and letter-like forms when asked to write.
- **Learning Strategies:** Use a variety of writing and drawing materials such as different types of pens, crayons, markers, or paintbrushes. Play with letter blocks, magnets, and other reading materials.

Speak

- **Learning Goals:** Ask questions and wait for answers. Use many words when speaking about feelings, places, people, or things.
- **Learning Strategies:** Have conversations with friends and adults. Play games with friends. Read books out loud.

Prekindergarten 4

Understanding What Your Child Will Learn

Prekindergarten will be a fun and engaging experience for your child. Your child will learn many skills which will lay a foundation for future learning. Below is a summary of what your child will learn in Prekindergarten. More information can be found by reviewing the *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines*. The guidelines are what all public schools in Texas use as a basis for what they teach students.



Language & Literacy

Listen

- **Learning Goals:** Follow two or three step directions during activities such as setting the table, playing games, or cleaning up. Have conversations with expected words and responses.
- **Learning Strategies:** Play games with multiple steps. Play in large and small groups. Listen to stories and directions.

Read

- **Learning Goals:** Enjoy being read to and exploring books. Name rhyming words.
- **Learning Strategies:** Play games with multiple steps. Play in large and small groups. Listen to stories and directions.

Write

- **Learning Goals:** Use marks or letters to write
- **Learning Strategies:** Use writing materials in multiple areas of the classroom, such as creating signs in block play or grocery lists in the pretend play center. Write in a journal and make books or drawings with words.

Speak

- **Learning Goals:** Ask and respond to questions. Use many words when speaking about feelings, people, places, or things.
- **Learning Strategies:** Have conversations with friends and teachers. Play games with friends. Read books out loud.

Technical assistance has increased awareness and improved implementation of HQPK requirements

TEA technical assistance has helped districts better understand each component of HQPK and ensures more consistent implementation across the state.

- The percentage of students assessed at beginning of year (BOY) and end of year (EOY) across all five required domains increased by 13% from SY 2023-24 to SY 2024-25.
- There was a 60% increase in school systems meeting the high-quality prekindergarten reporting requirements from SY 2023-24 to SY 2024-25.

Clear communication and ongoing support are critical for consistent and effective implementation.



Questions?