

Charter Student Admission Application (CSAA) Guidance for Charter Schools with Prekindergarten as an Approved Grade Level

Student Eligibility for Prekindergarten

Open-enrollment charter schools providing a prekindergarten program must follow the [high-quality program standards for prekindergarten](#) when serving students, as outlined in Texas Education Code (TEC) Chapter 29, Subchapter E-1 and Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §102.1003. A student is qualified to participate in a high-quality prekindergarten program if the student is four years of age on September 1 of the year the student begins the program and meets the following eligibility requirements:

- (1) is unable to speak and comprehend the English language;
- (2) is educationally disadvantaged;
- (3) is a homeless child, as defined by 42 United States Code §11434a, regardless of the residence of the child, of either parent of the child, or of the child's guardian or other person having lawful control of the child;
- (4) is the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority;
- (5) is the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty;
- (6) is or ever has been in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services following an adversary hearing held as provided by the Texas Family Code, §262.201; or
- (7) is the child of a person eligible for the Star of Texas Award as:
 - (A) a peace officer under Texas Government Code, §3106.002;
 - (B) a firefighter under Texas Government Code, §3106.003; or
 - (C) an emergency medical first responder under Texas Government Code, §3106.004.

Prekindergarten Eligibility Predetermination during the Application Process

Charter schools may not attempt to predetermine eligibility for prekindergarten during the application process through a checklist, questionnaire, or any other means to see if a child meets one of the eligibility requirements as described in 19 TAC §102.1003, nor can a charter school ask for additional documentation during the application process, including providing verification of income or completing a home language survey. This information must be collected during the enrollment process.

Schools may, however, consider helpful ways to make parents/guardians aware of the eligibility requirements for prekindergarten. Schools may post prekindergarten eligibility requirements (in English and Spanish and other languages, as appropriate) on their website, create flyers, and consider other ways to communicate eligibility information about prekindergarten, with the goal of encouraging parents to consider applying for their child's admission into a prekindergarten program. If you have questions about charter schools and prekindergarten eligibility, please email charterschools@tea.texas.gov.