SUMMARY
House Bill 3 requires that full-day prekindergarten be provided for all eligible four-year old children. Prekindergarten may be operated on a half-day basis for children under four years of age.

EXEMPTION CONDITIONS
Exemptions may be granted if it is determined that:
1. The local education agency (LEA) would be required to construct classroom facilities in order to provide prekindergarten classes; or
2. Implementation would result in fewer eligible children being enrolled in prekindergarten

A district may not receive an exemption unless the district has solicited and considered, at a public meeting, proposals for partnerships with public or private entities regarding offering full-day prekindergarten for eligible four-year-old students.

Additionally, before a district or open-enrollment charter school may construct, repurpose, or lease a classroom facility, or issue bonds for the construction or repurposing of a classroom facility, the district or school must solicit and consider proposals for partnerships with public or private community-based childcare providers who meet one of the following eligibility requirements:
- Are a Texas Rising Star program provider with a three-star certification or higher
- Are nationally accredited
- Are a Head Start program provider
- Are a Texas School Ready! participant
- Meet the requirements under Section 29.1532
  - Section 29.1532: If a school district contracts with a private entity for the operation of the district’s prekindergarten program, the program must at a minimum comply with the applicable child-care licensing standards adopted by the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services under Section 42.042, Human Resources Code

A decision of the board of trustees regarding a partnership described by this subsection is final.

EXEMPTION OPTIONS
If the conditions above are met, LEAs may apply for a one-, two-, or three-year exemption from full-day prekindergarten. An exemption may not be granted for a period longer than three school years and may be renewed only once.

The exemption from full-day prekindergarten also allows LEAs to waive one or more of the high-quality prekindergarten components. LEAs should follow the submission instructions below.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS
Exemptions for first time applicants or for those renewing their exemption will be available the summer before each school year.

The following information must be included in the exemption request:
High-Quality Prekindergarten Component Exemption

An LEA who requests an exemption from full-day prekindergarten will have the option to request an exemption from one or more of the high-quality prekindergarten components. LEAs should follow the submission instructions below.

1. After requesting exemption from full-day prekindergarten, complete the “High-Quality Prekindergarten Component Exemption” form to request an exemption from one or more of the high-quality prekindergarten components.
2. Board approval is needed for exemption of one or more of the high-quality prekindergarten components.
   a. For LEAs requesting exemption from full-day prekindergarten for the first time, the request for exemption from full-day prekindergarten and the high-quality components can be taken to the board at the same time.
   b. For LEAs with an existing approved full-day prekindergarten exemption, an additional board approval will be needed for exemption of one or more of the high-quality prekindergarten components.

The following information must be included in the exemption request:
- LEA contact name, phone, and email
- Status of LEA’s full-day prekindergarten exemption
- Indication of which high-quality prekindergarten components the LEA is requesting exemption from
- Date of LEA Board Meeting

The TEA Early Childhood Division will notify the contact person listed on the “High-Quality Prekindergarten Component Exemption” form by email regarding the approval of the requested exemption of the high-quality prekindergarten components within 30 days of submission.
For additional information, please contact the Early Childhood Education Division at the Texas Education Agency at earlychildhoodeducation@tea.texas.gov.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>ONE-YEAR EXEMPTION</th>
<th>TWO-YEAR EXEMPTION</th>
<th>THREE-YEAR EXEMPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR</td>
<td>Gather data to inform method of providing full-day prekindergarten. Solicit and consider proposals at a public meeting for partnerships with eligible early learning centers. After receiving and considering partnership proposals, make decision to: o Establish partnerships with eligible early learning centers and/or o Construct, repurpose, or lease new space, or issue bonds to construct or repurpose space.</td>
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<tr>
<td>YEAR 2</td>
<td>Begin offering full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year-old students or apply for an exemption renewal.</td>
<td>Begin offering full-day prekindergarten for some eligible four-year-old students through: o At least one partnership with an early learning center, and/or o At least one constructed, repurposed, or leased classroom(s) OR Hold an additional public meeting to solicit partnerships with eligible early learning centers.</td>
<td>Begin offering full-day prekindergarten for some eligible four-year-old students through: o At least one partnership with an early learning center, and/or o At least one constructed, repurposed, or leased classroom(s) OR Hold an additional public meeting to solicit partnerships with eligible early learning centers.</td>
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<td>YEAR 3</td>
<td>Begin offering full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year-old students or apply for an exemption renewal.</td>
<td>Increase full-day prekindergarten opportunities for eligible four-year old students through: o At least one additional partnership with an early learning center, and/or o At least one additional constructed, repurposed, or leased classroom(s) OR Hold an additional public meeting for partnerships with eligible early learning centers.</td>
<td>Increase full-day prekindergarten opportunities for eligible four-year old students through: o At least one additional partnership with an early learning center, and/or o At least one additional constructed, repurposed, or leased classroom(s) OR Hold an additional public meeting for partnerships with eligible early learning centers.</td>
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<td>YEAR 4</td>
<td>Begin offering full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year old students or apply for an exemption renewal.</td>
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FULL-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN
ONE-YEAR EXEMPTION

With a one-year exemption, LEAs will begin providing full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year-old students at the beginning of year 2 of the exemption process.

Year 1
LEAs must:
  o Gather data to inform method of providing full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year-old students in 2020-2021
    ▪ This data must include, at a minimum, the total number of additional classrooms needed to serve all eligible four-year-old students
  o Hold a public meeting to solicit and consider proposals for partnerships with eligible early learning centers
  o After receiving, reviewing, and considering partnership proposals, make decision to:
    ▪ Establish partnerships with eligible early learning centers and/or
    ▪ Construct, repurpose, or lease new space, or issue bonds to construct or lease new space

Year 2
LEAs must:
  o Begin offering full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year old students
  o Apply for an exemption renewal if unable to begin offering full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year old students as indicated in the original one-year exemption application
FULL-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN
TWO-YEAR EXEMPTION

With a two-year exemption, LEAs will begin providing full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year-old students at the beginning of year 3 of the exemption process.

Current School Year
LEAs must:
- Gather data to inform method of providing full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year-old students in 2021-2022
  - This data must include, at a minimum, the total number of additional classrooms needed to serve all eligible four-year-old students
- Hold a public meeting to solicit and consider proposals for partnerships with eligible early learning centers
- After receiving, reviewing, and considering partnership proposals, make decision to:
  - Establish partnerships with eligible early learning centers and/or
  - Construct, repurpose, or lease new space, or issue bonds to construct or lease new space

Year 2
LEAs must:
- Begin providing full-day prekindergarten to some eligible four-year old children through:
  - At least one partnership with an eligible early learning center, and/or
  - At least one constructed, repurposed, or leased classroom(s) OR
- Hold an additional public meeting to solicit partnership proposals from eligible early learning centers to provide full-day prekindergarten

Year 3
LEAs must:
- Begin offering full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year-old students
- Apply for an exemption renewal if unable to begin offering full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year old students as indicated in the original two-year exemption application
With a three-year exemption, LEAs will begin providing full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year-old students at the beginning of year 4 of the exemption process.

**Year 1**
LEAs must:
- Gather data to inform method of providing full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year-old students in 2020-2021
  - This data must include, at a minimum, the total number of additional classrooms needed to serve all eligible four-year-old students
- Hold a public meeting to solicit and consider proposals for partnerships with eligible early learning centers
- After receiving, reviewing, and considering partnership proposals, make decision to:
  - Establish partnerships with eligible early learning centers and/or
  - Construct, repurpose, or lease new space, or issue bonds to construct or lease new space

**Year 2**
LEAs must:
- Begin providing full-day prekindergarten to some eligible four-year-old children through:
  - At least one partnership with an eligible early learning center, and/or
  - At least one constructed, repurposed, or leased classroom(s)
  **OR**
- Hold an additional public meeting to solicit and consider proposals for partnerships with eligible early learning centers

**Year 3**
LEAs must:
- Increase full-day prekindergarten opportunities for eligible four-year-old students through:
  - At least one additional partnership with an eligible early learning center, and/or
  - At least one additional new, repurposed, or leased classroom(s)
  **OR**
- Hold an additional public meeting to solicit and consider proposals for partnerships with eligible early learning centers

**Year 4**
LEAs must:
- Begin offering full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year-old students
- Apply for an exemption renewal if unable to begin offering full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year-old students as indicated in the original three-year exemption application