

Prekindergarten Eligibility – Foster Care

Overview

Statute: [TEC, §29.153\(b\)\(6\)](#) & Texas Family Code [Section 262.201](#)

Resources: [Student Attendance and Accounting Handbook \(SAAH\)](#) Section 7.2.6, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services <https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/>, & [TEA Foster Care Webpage](#) (includes information on how to find the foster care liaison for your district)

Contact: District Foster Care Liaison or the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services – [Child Protective Services Regional Education Specialist](#)

Documentation

At least annually, the DFPS and Child Protective Services mail verification letters of pre-k eligibility to the parents and caregivers of eligible children. These letters serve as proof of eligibility. However, if a parent or caregiver does not receive this letter, he or she may obtain evidence of a child's eligibility for pre-k services by contacting a **DFPS education specialist**.

The DFPS education specialist will write and sign a letter addressed to the school district attesting to the student's eligibility for free pre-k based on having been in foster care. The parent or guardian presents this signed letter to the appropriate district personnel.

More information about DFPS education specialists can be found at <https://tea.texas.gov/FosterCareStudentSuccess/CPS/>.

Key Points

- If a student qualifies for pre-k on the basis of having ever been in foster care, the student remains eligible for enrollment after the student begins a pre-k class even if that student is no longer in foster care.
- Many districts pre-register pre-k students to determine and plan for the size of the next school year's pre-k program. Districts may begin this process on or after April 1 of each year. Once a child is determined to be eligible, they remain eligible without reverification prior to the next school year.