

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

FULL-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN EXEMPTION PROCESS

SUMMARY

House Bill 3 required 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

During school years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, exemptions were granted if it was 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

An exemption was not granted unless the district 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

If an LEA contracts with a private entity for the operation of the LEAs prekindergarten program for three-year-olds, the provider must at a minimum comply with the applicable child care licensing standards adopted by the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services under Human Resources Code §42.042.

If an LEA contracts with a private provider for the operation of the LEAs prekindergarten program for four-year-olds, the private provider must be licensed by and in good standing with the Department of Family and Protective Services. The private provider must also:

- 1) be accredited by a research-based, nationally recognized, and universally accessible accreditation system approved by the commissioner;
- 2) be a Texas Rising Star Program provider with a three-star certification or higher;
- 3) be a Texas School Ready! participant;
- 4) have an existing partnership with a school district to provide a prekindergarten not provided under this subchapter; or
- 5) be accredited by an organization that is recognized by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission.

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

EXEMPTION OPTIONS

If the conditions above were met, LEAs were granted a one-, two-, or three-year exemption from full-day prekindergarten. An exemption may be renewed only once.

The exemption from full-day prekindergarten also allowed LEAs to waive one or more of the high-quality prekindergarten components.

For additional information, please contact the Early Childhood Education Division at the Texas Education Agency at earlychildhoodeducation@tea.texas.gov.

FULL-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN | SUMMARY OF EXEMPTION OPTIONS

YEAR	ONE-YEAR EXEMPTION	TWO-YEAR EXEMPTION	THREE-YEAR EXEMPTION
CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR	<p>Gather data to inform method of providing full-day prekindergarten.</p> <p>Solicit and consider proposals at a public meeting for partnerships with eligible early learning centers.</p> <p>After receiving and considering partnership proposals, make decision to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish partnerships with eligible early learning centers and/or ○ Construct, repurpose, or lease new space, or issue bonds to construct or repurpose space. 	<p>Gather data to inform method of providing full-day prekindergarten.</p> <p>Solicit and consider proposals at a public meeting for partnerships with eligible early learning centers.</p> <p>After receiving and considering partnership proposals, make decision to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish partnerships with eligible early learning centers and/or ○ Construct, repurpose, or lease new space, or issue bonds to construct or repurpose space. 	<p>Gather data to inform method of providing full-day prekindergarten.</p> <p>Solicit and consider proposals at a public meeting for partnerships with eligible early learning centers.</p> <p>After receiving and considering partnership proposals, make decision to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish partnerships with eligible early learning centers and/or ○ Construct, repurpose, or lease new space, or issue bonds to construct or repurpose space.
YEAR 2	<p>Begin offering full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year-old students or apply for an exemption renewal.</p>	<p>Begin offering full-day prekindergarten for some eligible four-year-old students through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At least one partnership with an early learning center, and/or ○ At least one constructed, repurposed, or leased classroom(s) OR <p>Hold an additional public meeting to solicit partnerships with eligible early learning centers.</p>	<p>Begin offering full-day prekindergarten for some eligible four-year-old students through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At least one partnership with an early learning center, and/or ○ At least one constructed, repurposed, or leased classroom(s) OR <p>Hold an additional public meeting to solicit partnerships with eligible early learning centers.</p>
YEAR 3		<p>Begin offering full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year old students or apply for an exemption renewal.</p>	<p>Increase full-day prekindergarten opportunities for eligible four-year old students through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At least one additional partnership with an early learning center, and/or ○ At least one additional constructed, repurposed, or leased classroom(s) OR <p>Hold an additional public meeting for partnerships with eligible early learning centers.</p>
YEAR 4			<p>Begin offering full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year old students or apply for an exemption renewal.</p>

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:

- Gather data to inform method of providing full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year-old students by the end of the exemption period
 - 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 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 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 by the end of the exemption period
 - 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

FULL-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN THREE-YEAR EXEMPTION

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 by the end of the exemption period
 - 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