

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

FULL-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN EXEMPTION RENEWAL 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.

TEC §29.171(b)

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.

Beginning in school year 2021-2022, only renewal applications will be accepted. LEAs should follow the submission instructions below to request an exemption renewal.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications for those renewing their full-day prekindergarten exemption will be available the summer before each school year.

When applying for a renewal, your district must attach documentation to the waiver application to show your district has adhered to the Full-Day Prekindergarten Exemption Process. Documentation should include evidence that additional four-year-old children were served in full-day prekindergarten each year of the waiver period OR evidence that proposals for partnerships were solicited each year during the waiver period.

The following information must also be included in the exemption renewal request:

- LEA contact name, phone and email
- Date of LEA Board Meeting
- Exemption Condition
- Date of Public Meeting
- Did your LEA solicit partnership opportunities? Yes/No
- Did your LEA receive proposals for partnerships? Yes/No
- Did your LEA consider the proposals for the partnership it received? Yes/No
- If yes, type of partnership and number of solicitations received

Type	Number of Solicitations
Texas Rising Star 3+ Star Certification	
Nationally Accredited	
Head Start	
Texas School Ready	
Met the requirements of TEC 29.1532	
Other	

- Requested Years: (select requested years)

High-Quality Prekindergarten Component Exemption

An LEA who requested an exemption from full-day prekindergarten had the option to request an exemption from one or more of the high-quality prekindergarten components. The full-day prekindergarten exemption may be renewed only once. This renewal includes any exemptions from the high-quality prekindergarten components that were approved with the original waiver request. LEAs may not add additional exemption requests during the renewal process.

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 RENEWAL OPTIONS

	ONE-YEAR EXEMPTION RENEWAL	TWO-YEAR EXEMPTION RENEWAL	THREE-YEAR EXEMPTION RENEWAL
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.</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.</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.</p>

FULL-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN ONE-YEAR EXEMPTION RENEWAL

With a one-year exemption renewal, LEAs will begin providing full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year-old students at the beginning of year 2 of the exemption renewal process. No additional renewal will be available.

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 renewal 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

No additional renewal will be available.

FULL-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN TWO-YEAR EXEMPTION RENEWAL

With a two-year exemption renewal, LEAs will begin providing full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year-old students at the beginning of year 3 of the exemption renewal process. No additional renewal will be available.

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 renewal 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

No additional renewal will be available.

FULL-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN THREE-YEAR EXEMPTION RENEWAL

With a three-year exemption renewal, LEAs will begin providing full-day prekindergarten for all eligible four-year-old students at the beginning of year 4 of the exemption renewal process. No additional renewal will be available.

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 renewal 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

No additional renewal will be available.