



## Prekindergarten Eligibility Requirements 2019-2020

**To be eligible for prekindergarten, students must be 4 years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the enrollment school year and qualify for at least one of the following:**

### **Qualifying Factors for Prekindergarten:**

- ❖ Limited English Proficiency
- ❖ Economically disadvantaged (Free/Reduced Lunch)
- ❖ Homeless (McKinney Vento)
- ❖ Active Military Duty
- ❖ Child of a member of the armed forces injured or killed while serving
- ❖ Foster Care
- ❖ Star of Texas Award

### **Limited English Proficient**

Staff will determine that a student is eligible for prekindergarten based on limited English proficiency by

1. Testing students using a state approved oral language test in English
2. Administration of the home language survey (please note that if a language other than English is indicated on this form, the student should be assessed for English proficiency)

### **Required Documentation:**

1. Home language survey indicating a language other than English **and**
2. Proof of qualifying score on English oral language assessment

### **Economically Disadvantaged: Free/Reduced Lunch**

Students are considered economically disadvantaged when they are eligible to participate in the free or reduced-price lunch program. This occurs either because a student's income level meets federal requirements or because of automatic eligibility.

### **Automatic Eligibility:**

A child who is a member of a household receiving benefits from the supplemental nutrition assistance program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

- A child who is enrolled as a participant in Head Start or Even Start
- A migrant child
- A homeless child
- A runaway child
- A foster child

### **Income Level Eligibility**

Current paystub (No more than 2 months old) that meets the appropriate Income Eligibility Guidelines.

### **Required Documentation:**

A current, dated paystub with gross income that includes all money earned before deductions (income taxes, social security taxes, bonds, insurance premiums, and charitable contributions)

- Current paycheck stub
- Letter from employer stating gross wages paid
- Unemployment, Worker's Compensation or Disability stub
- Documentation for self employment:
  - Business or farming documents such as ledger books
  - Last year's tax return
  - A dated letter from employer stating wages paid and frequency

### **Homelessness -McKinney Vento**

A student is eligible on the basis of homelessness if the homeless education liaison identifies the student as homeless.

### **Required Documentation:**

Identification by Homeless Education Liaison through Student Residency Questionnaire

(Please note, once a student is identified as homeless, they are considered homeless for the entire year)

- Proof of residency is **NOT** required
- Students can be admitted for 30 days pending documentation of initiation of vaccinations

## **Active Military Duty**

Eligible children are biological, adopted, or step children of members of the armed forces.

1. Uniformed members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard
2. Activated/mobilized uniformed members of the Texas National Guard or members of the reserve components of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard
3. Uniformed service members who are missing in action (MIA)

### **Required Documentation: *DO NOT copy DoD identification***

1. Documentation that a district employee verified the Department of Defense (DoD) photo identification for children of active duty service members. If a student has not been issued such an ID, the documentation must be on file that a district employee verified the military member's DoD photo identification. (Documentation includes the printed name and signature of person who verified the documents, the date the documents were verified, and evidence that the student is a child of the military member)

Or

2. A "Statement of Service" from the Installation Adjutant General (AG) Director of Human Resources for children of active members or mobilized Reservists or members of the Texas National Guard.

Or

3. A copy of the Death Certificate using the Service appropriate DoD form or DoD form that indicates death as the reason for the separation from service for children of service members who died or were killed. If a DoD form is not available, the family could ask the Casualty Assistance Office in Texas to provide a memorandum.

Or

4. A copy of the Purple Heart orders or citation for children of service members or mobilized Reservists/guardsmen who were wounded in combat. If such is not available, a copy of an official letter from a commander that states a service member was wounded will suffice.

Or

5. Missing in Action (MIA) documentation

Or

6. A copy of a letter from the US Department of Veteran Affairs indicating that the service member is eligible for disability compensation.

Military students can be admitted for 30 days pending documentation or initiation of vaccinations.

### **Foster Care:**

Students who are currently or ever have been in the conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). When a student qualifies for prekindergarten on the basis of having been in foster care, the student remains eligible for enrollment for the entire year.

### **Required Documentation:**

1. Texas Department of Family and Protective Services verification letter.

Or

2. If a letter was not received by the parent, the parent may contact a DFPS specialist who will write and sign a letter addressed to the school district attesting to the student's eligibility.  
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=7739>.

Or

3. Department of State Health Services Form 2085

### **Star of Texas Award**

A child is eligible if a parent has received a Star of Texas Award for peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical first responders. To be eligible, the parent must have been awarded between 2004 and the current year of the awards ceremony.

### **Required Documentation:**

The resolution (certificate) awarded to the parent is proof of eligibility. A list of past honorees is available on the Criminal Justice Division-past honorees webpage.

**\*\*SPED is not a PK qualifier. If a child is ARDed into PK please make sure they qualify through any of the above indicators.\*\***

Tuition based PK is for employees children but please remember a child that qualifies gets the PK slot first.