

DATE:	July 18, 2019
SUBJECT:	House Bill 3 Pre-K
CATEGORY:	Early Childhood Education
NEXT STEPS:	Action Required of LEA: Share with appropriate staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CFO - School Leadership and other academic Early Childhood staff working with prekindergarten students

House Bill (HB) 3 was passed by the 86th Texas Legislature, 2019, and signed into law by Governor Abbott on June 11, 2019. HB 3 impacts districts and open-enrollment charter schools serving prekindergarten through third grade students. The following areas within HB 3 that relate to prekindergarten specifically are:

- Early education allotment
- Full-day high-quality prekindergarten for eligible four-year-olds
- Expanded early education reporting
- Early learning progress monitoring tools
- Exemptions
- Partnerships

Today, the agency released a HB 3 in 30 Pre-K webinar focusing on the bullets above, along with a PowerPoint and related materials.

Overview of Changes to Prekindergarten Requirements

HB 3 does not change the requirements as to whether a district or charter must offer prekindergarten services from prior law, nor does it change eligibility for prekindergarten funding. It does, however, require that all prekindergarten offered to eligible four-year-old students be full day, and that the prekindergarten meet the high-quality requirements adopted by the legislature four years ago. To support these requirements, HB 3 increases funding in general and creates a new early education allotment.

Districts must convert existing half day prekindergarten services for four-year olds to be full day, effective with the start of the new school year. Recognizing this will create a large number of logistical challenges for some districts given the short amount of time with which to implement this requirement, the legislature created a limited process to obtain an exemption to this requirement, but the process itself requires districts to attempt to engage in partnerships with community-based early learning centers.

The agency has created resources to help districts navigate these new requirements:

Resources to support HB 3 PreK

- HB 3 ECE one-pager
- High-quality prekindergarten components one-pager
- Webinars:
 - [High-quality prekindergarten components](#)
 - [Public-private partnerships webinars](#)
- [Partnership Guidebook](#)
- Partnership one-pagers:
 - Head Start partnerships
 - Early Learning Center partnerships
- Exemption Guidance Document

Full-day Prekindergarten Exemptions (waivers):

An exemption may be applied through the [State Waiver Unit](#) for up to three years with one renewal. The prekindergarten exemption for full-day prekindergarten will be available in January 2020. This process is detailed further in the webinar and PowerPoint presentation.

Please note: the waiver will not be accessible on the TEA [State Waivers web page](#) until toward the end of the 2019 calendar year. But waivers will be granted as needed to account for the 2019-20 school year.

Questions

If you have any questions related to this TAA on prekindergarten improvements under HB 3, please contact the Division of Early Childhood by phone at (512) 936-2546 or email HB3info@tea.texas.gov. We will be compiling answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the <https://tea.texas.gov/hb3> webpage as well as TEA's [Early Childhood Education webpage](#).

Sincerely,

Jacquie Porter,
State Director of Early Childhood Education