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TEXAS
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[FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PREKINDERGARTEN]

Division of State and Federal Education Programs

Early Childhood Education Unit

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT PREKINDERGARTEN

Category 1: Eligibility and Attendance

Category I: Eligibility and Attendance	Question	Answer	Citation
I. Eligibility and Attendance	1. Do schools have to have a prekindergarten program?	Yes, if the district identifies 15 or more eligible children who are at least four years of age by September 1 of the current school year. A school district may offer prekindergarten classes if the district identifies 15 or more eligible children who are at least three years of age.	TEC §29.153(a-1)
I. Eligibility and Attendance	2. How is the prekindergarten program funded?	The school finance system provides state aid on the basis of aggregate (district-level) average daily attendance (ADA). Funding is not provided on a grade-level basis. Because attendance data and grade level are reported at the student level, it is possible to calculate the ADA generated by students associated with a particular grade level and infer the amount of funding represented by the ADA of the students in that grade level.	SAAH, Section 7.2
I. Eligibility and Attendance	3. Does a school have to notify families about the prekindergarten program?	Yes. Each district offering a prekindergarten program must develop a system to notify families with eligible children of the availability of the class. Notice must be made in English and Spanish.	TEC §29.153(e)
I. Eligibility and Attendance	4. Does the agency have any outreach materials to help schools notify communities?	Yes. The website www.prekindergartenprepares.com contains products including free downloadable, customizable materials for district outreach efforts in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, as well as English and Spanish radio and TV spots for local use and distribution.	TEC §29.1534(e)
I. Eligibility and	5. What are some ways school districts can	The following sources of documentation can be used for	TEC

Category I: Eligibility and Attendance	Question	Answer	Citation
Attendance	document that the community was notified of the availability of the prekindergarten program?	<p>prekindergarten notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.prekindergartenprepares.com • letter of notification sent home with students • identification systems in place at times of registration of older siblings • newspaper articles • notices in public places • radio announcements • display on school marquee • community newsletters <p>Note: If a school district contracts with a private entity for the operation of the district's prekindergarten program, it is the responsibility of the school district to make the notification.</p>	§29.153(e)
I. Eligibility and Attendance 	6. Who is eligible for public school prekindergarten?	<p>To be eligible for enrollment in a prekindergarten class, a child must be at least three years of age and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. is unable to speak and comprehend the English language; or 2. is educationally disadvantaged; or 3. is homeless, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 1143a, regardless of the residence of the child, of either parent of the child, or of the child's guardian or other person having lawful control of the child; or 4. is the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority; or 5. is the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty; or 6. is or ever has been in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (<i>foster care</i>) following an 	TEC §29.153(b) SAAH, Section 7.2

Category I: Eligibility and Attendance	Question	Answer	Citation
		adversary hearing held as provided by Section 262.201, Family Code.	
	7. If my child is eligible for special education programs due to having a disability, are they automatically eligible for prekindergarten as well?	<p>No. A child with a disability is only eligible for prekindergarten if he or she meets the criteria for prekindergarten set forth by the Texas Education Code TEC §29.153(b).</p> <p>The only time a prekindergarten student is eligible for a full day of ADA is if the student attends the prekindergarten program for half of the day and the Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD) for the other half of the day. The student must meet the qualifications of both programs to be coded eligible full-day (ADA eligibility code 1).</p> <p>However, an ineligible child with a disability may participate in the prekindergarten program if the Admission Review and Dismissal (ARD) committee deems it appropriate in the Individual Education Program (IEP) <u>and only</u> if there is space available. An ineligible child cannot take the slot of a child who is eligible for prekindergarten.</p> <p>Students who attend the PK program for half of the day and the PPCD for the other half of the day and do not qualify for the PK program are coded as eligible students for ADA only for the time spent in the PPCD.</p>	TEC §29.153(b) SAAH, Section 7.2
I. Eligibility and Attendance	8. May eligible students be excluded from eligibility if they are not potty trained or have frequent bathroom accidents?	No, they may not be excluded from eligibility. Eligible students are not required to be potty trained. TEA does not regulate procedures for assisting a child with bathroom capabilities. Local district policy governs hygiene assistance and it is recommended that the school and the parent or person standing in parental relation to the child establish written guidelines for managing these situations.	TEC §29.153(a-1)
I. Eligibility and Attendance 	9. Why isn't my child eligible for prekindergarten? My child doesn't meet the	The Texas Legislature determines eligibility requirements for free, public prekindergarten in Texas. When the Texas legislature established the prekindergarten program the intent was, and still is, to provide early learning experiences to students who are most at-risk for	TEC §29.153(b) SAAH, Section 7.2

Category I: Eligibility and Attendance	Question	Answer	Citation
	<p>criteria and I can't afford private prekindergarten. Why aren't all children eligible for prekindergarten?</p>	<p>school failure. The eligibility is therefore limited. The legislature believed that a high quality prekindergarten program could mitigate the impact of the at-risk characteristics, thereby assisting these students to become school ready when they enter kindergarten.</p> <p>If you would like a change in current state law, you may discuss the issue with your local legislators. Because TEA and Texas public schools are governed by the Texas Education Code, the Legislature is the only body that can change or expand the eligibility requirements. To locate your legislators, visit the websites below.</p> <p>Texas House of Representatives: http://www.house.state.tx.us/resources/frequently-asked-questions/#who_rep</p> <p>Texas State Senators: http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/Senate/Members.htm#FYI</p>	
<p>I. Eligibility and Attendance</p> 	<p>10. My child won't be 5-years-old until right after September 1, but is very smart and mature. Can they go to kindergarten instead of prekindergarten so they don't have to wait another year?</p>	<p>TEA and Texas public schools are governed by the Texas Education Code (TEC). A child must be at least five years of age on September 1 of the school year. A student younger than five years of age is entitled to the benefits of the Foundation School Program (i.e. kindergarten) if: (1) the student performs satisfactorily on the assessment instrument administered under Section 39.023(a) to students in the third grade; and (2) the district has adopted a policy for admitting students younger than five years of age.</p> <p>Because public school age is governed by the TEC, the legislature is the only body that can change or expand the age requirements. To locate your legislators, visit the websites below.</p> <p>Texas House of Representatives: http://www.house.state.tx.us/resources/frequently-asked-questions/#who_rep</p> <p>Texas State Senators:</p>	<p>TEC §29.151 TEC §42.003(d)</p>

Category I: Eligibility and Attendance	Question	Answer	Citation
		http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/Senate/Members.htm#FYI	
I. Eligibility and Attendance 	11. What is the class size and student: teacher ratio for prekindergarten?	There is no rule or law regarding prekindergarten class size or student: teacher ratio; however school districts are encouraged to maintain student/teacher ratios in prekindergarten programs that, at a minimum, do not exceed the 22:1 ratio required for kindergarten through fourth grade. 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 Texas Department of Family and Protective Services under Section 42.042, Human Resources Code. <i>Please see FAQ #11 for additional information regarding class size.</i>	TEC §25.112 TEC §29.1532(b)
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Curriculum	12. What is the room size requirement (minimum square feet) for a prekindergarten classroom?	Classrooms for prekindergarten, kindergarten and first grade shall have a minimum of 36 square feet per pupil or 800 square feet per room.	TAC §61.1033(d)(2)(A)(i) TAC §61.1036(d)(5)(B)(i)
I. Eligibility and Attendance	13. How do I prove my child's age and identification?	The documents considered acceptable for proof of identification and age are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Birth Certificate; 2. Passport; 3. School ID card, records, or report card; 4. Military ID; 5. Hospital birth record; 6. Adoption records; 7. Church baptismal record; or 8. Any other legal document that establishes identity. 	SAAH, Section 7.3
I. Eligibility and	14. How do we know if our	Age is always calculated as of September 1 of the current school year	SAAH, Section

Category I: Eligibility and Attendance	Question	Answer	Citation
Attendance	child is the right age?	(for the purposes of establishing eligibility). If school starts before the student's birth date, the attendance is eligible for the entire school year as long as the student will be the required age on or before September 1 of the current school year.	13, Glossary
I. Eligibility and Attendance	15. Does my child have to go to prekindergarten if he or she is eligible?	No. Prekindergarten is not mandatory. However, on enrollment in prekindergarten, a child must attend school. All students are subject to compulsory school attendance rules while they are enrolled in school. If a child has not reached 6 years of age as of September 1 of the current school year, the child may be withdrawn from school without violating compulsory attendance rules.	TEC §25.085(b) and (c) SAAH, Section 3.5

Eligibility and Attendance – ELL

I. Eligibility and Attendance - ELL	16. If a student is eligible based on limited English proficiency (LEP) and is receiving required services through the bilingual/ESL program and then moves out of the district, does the student have to re-qualify for the prekindergarten program in the new district?	No. The student remains qualified to attend prekindergarten in the new district provided documentation of the home language survey and testing are made available to the new district [See TAC 89.1225 (i)]. This requirement also applies to prekindergarten LEP 3-year-olds who are promoted to the prekindergarten LEP 4-year-old program.	SAAH, Section 7.2.2 TAC §89.1225(i)
I. Eligibility and Attendance - ELL	17. If a student is eligible based on being limited English proficient (LEP) and is not receiving required services through the bilingual/ESL program because of a parental denial, and then moves out of the district, does the student have to re-qualify for the prekindergarten program in the new district?	No. The student remains eligible for prekindergarten if the student enrolls in the new district within 30 days provided documentation of the home language survey and testing are made available to the new district. However, the student must re-qualify for prekindergarten if the student enrolls in the district after 30 days. Also, if the LEP student is in a 3-year-old prekindergarten program and has a parental denial, the student must re-qualify to be eligible for the 4-year-old prekindergarten program. This requirement applies whether the student remains in the same district or transfers to another district.	SAAH, Section 7.2.2
I. Eligibility and Attendance -	18. For students who do not speak and comprehend the	If the student is eligible for prekindergarten because the student does not speak and comprehend the English language, the following	SAAH, Section 7.2.2.1

ELL	English language, what documentation is needed to show eligibility?	<p>documentation must be on file:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Home language survey. The home language survey shall be administered in English and Spanish; for students of other language groups, the home language survey shall be translated into the home language whenever possible. The home language survey shall contain the following questions [19 TAC §89.1215 (b)]: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. "What language is spoken in your home most of the time?" b. "What language does your child (do you) speak most of the time?" 2. Proof of a qualifying score on an approved Oral Language Proficiency Test. The official scores must be documented in the student's records. 	
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Eligibility and Attendance – Educationally Disadvantaged

I. Eligibility and Attendance - Educationally Disadvantaged	19. What is the definition of “educationally disadvantaged?”	The term, “educationally disadvantaged,” means eligible to participate in the national free or reduced-price lunch program established under 42 U.S.C. Section 1751 et seq.	TEC §5.001(4)
I. Eligibility and Attendance - Educationally Disadvantaged	20. What is the income level for a household to qualify as educationally disadvantaged?	The income level is based on the National School Lunch Program income eligibility guidelines established annually by the US Department of Agriculture. Those may be found at Income Eligibility Guidelines .	TEC §5.001(4)
I. Eligibility and Attendance - Educationally Disadvantaged	21. What if the qualifying status of a student’s family changes during the school year?	The student remains eligible. For example, a student who qualifies for prekindergarten because the student is eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program (educationally disadvantaged) remains eligible for the entire school year even if the family’s annual income increases above the qualifying level during the school year.	SAAH, Section 7.2.3
I. Eligibility and Attendance - Educationally Disadvantaged	22. Do we have to provide current income level documentation to the school for my child who qualifies as “educationally disadvantaged?”	Yes. In order for a student to qualify for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the student’s family is required to provide the school district with current income level documentation. Many districts pre-register prekindergarten students in an attempt to plan for the following school year. Since income level documentation must be current to qualify for the NSLP, districts must verify income level documentation no more than two (2) months prior to the student’s first day of membership. Upon re-verification of income, if the family’s income level has changed and they are not considered educationally disadvantaged (eligible to participate in the NSLP), the student is not eligible for prekindergarten funding.	SAAH, Section 7.2.3
I. Eligibility and Attendance - Educationally Disadvantaged	23. What if our family has already been approved for NSLP participation? Do we need to provide	No. Once the household is determined to be eligible for the NSLP, all children in the household are eligible, therefore the eligibility of incoming prekindergarten students is predetermined. If a sibling was not listed on last year’s NSLP application but comes from a family with	ARM (Administrator’s Reference Manual) for

	documentation again for younger siblings when they enroll?	children who were eligible for free meals last year, the LEA should add the sibling to last year's application. The LEA should then follow the established process for verifying household eligibility for the new year.	Texas Child Nutrition Programs, Section 4.1
I. Eligibility and Attendance - Educationally Disadvantaged 	24. Can I use my SNAP or TANF card to document eligibility?	Yes. All children in a SNAP or TANF household are categorically eligible to receive free meals. When a household submits a complete application that contains: the name of the child, a current SNAP or TANF case number and an adult signature, the determining official must approve the child for free meals. No further application information is required. <i>Lone Star Card account numbers are not acceptable SNAP case numbers on the application. If this occurs, contact the applicant to obtain the valid SNAP or TANF eligibility number.</i>	ARM (Administrator's Reference Manual) for Texas Child Nutrition Programs, Section 4.11-4.12
I. Eligibility and Attendance - Educationally Disadvantaged	25. What do I need to show my child is eligible for free and reduced lunch?	When providing written evidence of proof of income, parents or those standing in parental relation to the student must submit documents that show income received by the household during the month prior to verification. The document should contain the name of the person standing in parental relation, and amount and the date the income was received. A pay stub with no date would be insufficient. Gross income to be reported is any money received on a recurring basis including gross earned income. Specifically, gross income means all money earned before any deductions, such as income taxes, employee's social security taxes, insurance premiums, bonds, and charitable contributions. Acceptable documentation for earnings (wages and salary) include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current paycheck stub • Current pay envelope • Letter from employer stating gross wages paid and how often they are paid • Unemployment, Worker's Compensation or Disability payment stub • Acceptable documentation for self-employment income include: • Business or farming documents, such as ledger books and/or self-issued paycheck stub • Last year's tax return 	ARM (Administrator's Reference Manual) for Texas Child Nutrition Programs, Section 4.21

		<p>Acceptable documentation for cash income include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter from the employer stating wages paid and frequency <p>[Please refer to the ARM (Administrator's Reference Manual) for <i>Texas Child Nutrition Programs</i> for additional sources and examples of income documentation]</p>	
I. Eligibility and Attendance - Educationally Disadvantaged	26. If a child is eligible for prekindergarten based on free or reduced-price lunch, enrolls and then withdraws from school and then returns to school within the same school year, is that child still eligible for prekindergarten?	Yes. Because NSLP applications are valid for the duration of the school year, the student remains eligible for the duration of the school year.	ARM (Administrator's Reference Manual) for Texas Child Nutrition Programs, Section 4.26
I. Eligibility and Attendance - Educationally Disadvantaged	27. If a student is eligible based on being educationally disadvantaged (eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program) and then moves to another district, does the student have to re-qualify for the prekindergarten program in the new district?	<p>No. If a student qualifies for prekindergarten on the basis of being educationally disadvantaged (eligible to participate in the NSLP) and then moves out of the district, the student would not have to re-qualify for the prekindergarten program in the new district. The student is eligible based on the original application. Even if the parents are above poverty line at the time that they moved to the second school district, the student will qualify for a free/reduced lunch based on the original application. The student would still be reported in PEIMS as qualified for free/reduced lunch.</p> <p>When a student transfers to another LEA, the new LEA may accept the eligibility determination from a copy of the transferred student's meal application from the former LEA, however the accepting LEA will not incur liability for the accuracy of the initial determination made by the previous LEA. The accepting LEA should review the application for arithmetic errors and ensure the correct eligibility was determined. If an error was made, the accepting LEA must notify the household to submit a new application. The accepting LEA must make changes that occur as a result of verification activities or coordinated review findings</p>	SAAH, Section 7.2.3 ARM (Administrator's Reference Manual) for Texas Child Nutrition Programs, Section 4.47

		conducted.	
I. Eligibility and Attendance - Educationally Disadvantaged	28. Does my student have to participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in order to qualify for prekindergarten?	No. To qualify for prekindergarten on the basis of being educationally disadvantaged means that a student is <i>eligible</i> to participate in the NSLP.	TEC §29.153

Eligibility and Attendance – Homeless

<p>I. Eligibility and Attendance - Homeless</p>	<p>29. What is the definition of “homeless?”</p>	<p>The term, “homeless,” is defined as an individual who lacks a regular, fixed, or adequate nighttime residence; and an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a supervised public or private shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill); 2. an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or 3. a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. <p>The definition in 42 U.S.C. Section 11302 is similar, but not identical, to the new definition of “homeless children and youths” enacted in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation enacted by Congress. As the new definition in the NCLB legislation applies specifically under federal law to the enrollment of homeless children and youth, the Texas Education Agency advises that school districts apply the NCLB definition, in addition to the definition in 42 U.S.C. Section 11302, when determining if a student is eligible for enrollment.</p>	<p>42 U.S.C. Section 11302(a)</p> <p>SAAH, Section 7.2.4</p> <p>As defined by NCLB, Title X, Part C, Section 725(2)</p> <p>SAAH, Section 13, Glossary</p>
<p>I. Eligibility and Attendance - Homeless</p>	<p>30. How do I show my child is eligible based on being homeless?</p>	<p>If the student is eligible for prekindergarten because the student is homeless, the student must fit the definition of homeless as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11302 and 42 U.S.C. Section 11434(a).</p>	<p>SAAH, Section 7.2.4</p>

Eligibility and Attendance – Military

<p>I. Eligibility and Attendance- Military</p>	<p>31. What is the definition of “member of the armed forces?”</p>	<p>The term “member of the armed forces” includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • active duty uniformed members (parents or official guardians) of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard who are assigned to duty stations in Texas or who are Texans who have eligible children residing in Texas; • activated/mobilized uniformed members of the Texas National Guard (Army or Air Guard), or activated/mobilized members of the reserve components of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard who are Texas residents regardless of the location of the reserve unit; and • uniformed service members who are Missing in Action (MIA). <p>Also, for purposes of eligibility for enrollment in a prekindergarten program, a child is considered to be the child of a member of the armed forces if: (a) the child is the biological or adopted child of the member of the armed forces, regardless of whether the child lives with that parent; or (b) the child is a step-child of the member of the armed forces and lives in the household of the member of the armed forces.</p>	<p>SAAH, Section 7.2.5</p>
<p>I. Eligibility and Attendance- Military</p>	<p>32. What do I need to show to demonstrate my child is eligible based on the military criteria?</p>	<p>If a student is eligible for prekindergarten because the student is the child of an active duty, injured or killed member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserved component of the armed forces, the following documentation must be on file:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation that a district employee verified the student's Department of Defense (DoD) photo identification for children of active duty service members. Important: Your district should not make a copy of the identification. • If the student has not been issued such an ID, then documentation must be on file that a district employee verified the military member's DoD photo identification (or other DoD-issued 	<p>SAAH, Section 7.2.5.1</p>

		<p>documentation indicating that the person is an active-duty member of the military) and verified documentation showing that the student is a child of the military member. The documentation to be kept on file must include the printed name and signature of the person who verified the DoD and other documentation and the date that it was verified, as well as a photocopy of the documentation showing that the student is a child of the military member. Important: Your district should not make a copy of the DoD identification; or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the “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. This office would use the military personnel systems and documentation to verify that the service member is on active duty in Texas or a Texas mobilized reservist. For Texas National Guard members (Army or Air Guard), the Texas National Guard’s office of the Adjutant General (TAG) may provide documentation or an official letter from a commander (at or above the Lieutenant Colonel or, for the Navy at the Commander level) confirming active/mobilized status may be accepted; or • A copy of the Death Certificate using the service appropriate Department of Defense form, or a Department of Defense form that indicates death as the reason for the separation from the service for children of service members who died or were killed. If the Department of Defense form is not available, the family would ask the Casualty Assistance Office of the closest Casualty Area Command (in Texas) to provide a memorandum signed by the Casualty Office stating the service member was killed in action or died while serving; or • A copy of the Purple Heart orders or citation for children of service members or mobilized reservists/guardsmen who were wounded or injured in combat; or • A copy of the Line of Duty Determination documentation for children of service members or mobilized reservists/guardsmen who were injured while serving on active duty but were NOT wounded or injured in combat. If such documentation is not available, a copy of 	
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		<p>an official letter from a commander (at or above the Lieutenant Colonel or, for the Navy at the Commander level) stating the service member was wounded or injured while on active duty is acceptable; or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of appropriate documentation for children of service members who are “Missing in Action” (MIA). Any one of the following three acceptable pieces of documentation will suffice for all services: (1) a copy of the transmittal letter from the Service Secretary stating the service member is in a missing status; (2) a copy of the DD (Department of Defense) Form 2811, “Report of Proceedings by Initial/Subsequent Board of Inquiry or Further Review Board”; or (3) a copy of the DD Form 2812, “Commander’s Preliminary Assessment and Recommendations Regarding Missing Person.” 	
I. Eligibility and Attendance-Military	33. What are the benefits to the school district for partnering with a military installation child care center for school readiness integration?	<p>The centers located on military installations make excellent partners for the SRI model in a number of ways. They offer:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. food program operated by the US Dept of Agriculture, similar to the federal lunch program operated in the schools; 2. social work services; 3. state of the art facilities; 4. licensed child care facilities that meet NAEYC standards; 5. low student-teacher ratio; 6. special needs resource teams for special education students; 7. extended hours of operation (typically 5:30 am to 6:00 pm); 8. consistent attendance of children; 9. predictable mobility rates for children; and 10. well-trained staff by military early childhood specialists. 	
I. Eligibility and Attendance-Military	34. What if the parent leaves military services during the school year?	The student remains eligible for enrollment if the child’s parent leaves the armed forces, or is no longer on active duty, after the student begins a prekindergarten class.	<p>TEC §29.153(f) SAAH, Section 7.2.5</p>

Eligibility and Attendance – Foster

<p>I. Eligibility and Attendance- Foster</p>	<p>35. Does a foster care qualifying student have to be currently in foster care?</p>	<p>No. Students who are in or who have ever been in the conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) (i.e., in foster care) following an adversary hearing are eligible for free prekindergarten. These students include not only students who are in or who have ever been in DFPS conservatorship but also students who have been adopted or returned to their parents after having been in DFPS conservatorship. If a student qualifies for prekindergarten on the basis of having ever been in foster care, the student remains eligible for enrollment after the student begins a prekindergarten class even if that student is no longer in foster care.</p>	<p>SAAH, Section 7.2.6</p>
<p>I. Eligibility and Attendance- Foster</p>	<p>36. What do I need to show to demonstrate my child is eligible based on the foster care criteria?</p>	<p>If a student is eligible for prekindergarten because the student is or ever has been in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services following an adversary hearing held as provided by Section 262.201, Family Code, the parent or caregiver of the child will be mailed a verification letter of prekindergarten eligibility. Districts are asked to accept the DFPS letter as proof of eligibility to enroll these children in free prekindergarten. For assistance in obtaining a letter, please contact the DFPS Education Specialist in your area for assistance or for a description of other forms of proof of eligibility.</p>	

Category II: Full/Half-Day Programs

Category II: Full/Half-Day Programs	Question	Answer	Citation
II. Full/Half Day Programs 	37. How many and which districts offer a full-day prekindergarten program?	TEA does not collect this information.	N/A
II. Full/Half Day Programs	38. How are full-day programs funded?	Districts fund the second half of a full-day program in a variety of ways, including but not limited to, Title I, Title III, local funds, state, federal or foundation grants, compensatory ed, etc.	N/A
II. Full/Half Day Programs	39. Can school districts offer half-day or full-day prekindergarten programs?	The state funds a half-day prekindergarten program. However, districts may use other federal, state and local sources, including collaboration with local Head Start or licensed child care agencies to implement a full-day program or a program with wrap-around services.	TEC §29.153(c) TEC §29.1533 TEC §29.158
II. Full/Half Day Programs	40. What is the length of a full-day and half-day prekindergarten program?	A full-day program shall be at least seven hours each day including intermissions and recesses. A half-day program is a minimum of three hours.	TEC §25.082(a)
II. Full/Half Day Programs	41. What is the definition of “instructional day?”	“Instructional day” is that portion of the school day in which instruction takes place. This does not include lunch, recess, rest time, etc.	SAAH, Section 13, Glossary

Category III: School Readiness Integration (SRI) Partnerships

Category III: School Readiness Integration (SRI) Partnerships	Question	Answer	Citation
III. School Readiness Integration (SRI) Partnerships	42. What is a School Readiness Integration (SRI) model?	<p>A School Readiness Integration model can be described as a cost-effective way to develop an integrated approach to bring together school districts, child care providers and Head Start programs in a cohesive service model that dramatically improves early reading, math and social development.</p> <p>In an SRI classroom, a school district positions a certified teacher in a Head Start or child care classroom to provide a minimum of three hours of daily instruction to eligible students using state-adopted instructional materials. Districts may receive ADA funds for eligible prekindergarten students, who are enrolled in the Head Start or child care classroom served.</p> <p>The two key principles driving school readiness integration are (1) the preparedness of all children to enter kindergarten on or above grade level and ready to benefit from the full array of public education services to keep them on grade level in kindergarten and beyond; and (2) the development and implementation of a SRI model that is community-based and individualized in ways that best serve each community in the most effective and efficient ways to meet each community's needs.</p>	TEC §29.158
III. School Readiness Integration (SRI) Partnerships	43. Can school districts contract with Head Start or child care organizations to provide public	Yes. Before establishing a new prekindergarten program, a school district shall consider the possibility of sharing use of an existing Head Start or other child-care program site as a prekindergarten site. To facilitate collaboration among district prekindergarten, licensed child care and Head Start programs, the agency has made available a manual for building community collaborations for early childhood care	TEC §29.1533 TEC §29.158

Category III: School Readiness Integration (SRI) Partnerships	Question	Answer	Citation
	prekindergarten?	and education. The manual is available at http://www.childrenslearninginstitute.org/our-programs/program-overview/TX-school-ready/documents/PromotingSustainableCollaborations.pdf .	
III. School Readiness Integration (SRI) Partnerships	44. How can the School Readiness Integration model assist school districts impacted by the requirement to serve military families and their prekindergarten students?	School districts may enter into SRI arrangements with existing nonprofit child care centers currently located on military installations and operated by the military or with other local community-based child care providers who are serving children of military families. On-base centers have been funded 50% by the military service and 50% by tuition payments from parents. As with other community based child care centers, the center can continue to charge tuition for “wrap-around” care before and after public school services.	TEC §29.1533 TEC §29.158
III. School Readiness Integration (SRI) Partnerships	45. What assistance is available for communities wishing to implement an SRI model?	Each ESC employs a SRI specialist to provide technical assistance on community prekindergarten collaborations, with an emphasis on assisting districts in designing and implementing SRI plans between public prekindergarten, licensed child care and Head Start programs. For a list of ESC SRI Specialists, click (Insert PDF of SRI contact information here). To facilitate collaboration among district prekindergarten, licensed child care and Head Start programs, the agency has made available a manual for building community collaborations for early childhood care and education. The manual is available at http://www.childrenslearninginstitute.org/our-programs/program-overview/TX-school-ready/tools/community_tools.html .	TEC §29.1533 TEC §29.158

Category III: School Readiness Integration (SRI) Partnerships	Question	Answer	Citation
III. School Readiness Integration (SRI) Partnerships	46. Do School Readiness Integration models address the needs of prekindergarten children with special needs such as PPCD under IDEA-B and bilingual education?	Children with special needs such as PPCD under IDEA-B and bilingual education will be served as they are in regular prekindergarten programs. All regulations that apply to public prekindergarten programs will apply in other settings. It is expected that additional funds provided to districts to serve such students will continue to be used for the benefit of the child regardless of the setting in which the child is placed.	N/A
III. School Readiness Integration (SRI) Partnerships	47. If a child with a disability is served in an SRI model in a sliding scale, fee based, or tuition based licensed child care setting, how do we achieve the requirement that the program be at no cost to the parent?	<p>If the admission, referral and dismissal (ARD) committee determines this model is the least restrictive environment (LRE) necessary to provide a free and appropriate education (FAPE) to a preschool child with a disability and in need of special education, it must be made available at no cost to the parent.</p> <p>The district or the partner program may waive the cost otherwise charged to the parent in favor of the other benefits the arrangement brings the community. All arrangements must be designed to ensure the parent incurs no cost for the program must be described and agreed to in the MOU between the partnering entity and the district.</p>	71 Fed. Reg. 46540,46589
III. School Readiness Integration (SRI) Partnerships	48. How do I identify an appropriate Head Start or child care center for an SRI partnership?	<p>Prior to selecting and approaching community-based early childhood education providers for partnership purposes, the following steps are suggested:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify characteristics of your school district (urban, suburban, rural, consolidated, high need, etc.) 2. Estimate total classrooms needed for eligible prekindergarten age children on a zip code or census tract basis (eligibility in this case 	N/A

Category III: School Readiness Integration (SRI) Partnerships	Question	Answer	Citation
		<p>includes eligibility for prekindergarten, Head Start, and Child Care).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Survey total classroom space available for prekindergarten age children in all ISD, Head Start and child care sites, including child care centers on military installations. 4. Assess conditions and circumstances of buildings in which classroom space is available (ownership, terms and conditions of lease and use agreements, repair needs, estimated life of structures, etc.). 5. Estimate child turnover/mobility rates in child care (including military installations), Head Start and prekindergarten programs. 6. Identify existing Head Start program options (part day, full-day, partial year, full-year, home-based, etc.) and child care service delivery models (centers, centers located on military installations, family day homes, self-arranged care with family) that are currently in place, and the distribution of children currently within each of those. 7. Identify the number of people who are currently staffing classrooms serving prekindergarten age children and their qualifications. 8. Based on the information gathered, develop a strategy/action plan for approaching a prospective partner who will best serve the needs of your campus, district and community. <p>The process of going through a-g will assist you in defining the characteristics of appropriate and eligible early childhood partners. It will also give you the information necessary to begin planning with prospective partners.</p>	

Category IV: Tuition

Category IV: Tuition	Question	Answer	Citation
IV. Tuition 	49. Can school districts serve ineligible children in prekindergarten?	<p>Yes. A school district may offer on a tuition basis or use other funds to provide half-day and full-day prekindergarten classes to children not eligible for classes under Section 29.153. Districts must ensure that serving students who are not eligible for the program does not interfere with serving students who are eligible for the program.</p> <p>Districts with a 4-year-old program, but no 3-year-old program may serve non-eligible 4-year-old students only after all eligible 4-year-old students have been offered service. If a district serves one or more 3-year-old students in prekindergarten, it is operating a 3-year-old program. The student's age is determined as of September 1 of the applicable school year. Districts with a 4-year-old program AND a 3-year-old program may serve non-eligible 3- and 4-year-old students only after all eligible 3- and 4-year-old students have been offered service.</p> <p>The agency recommends that districts first serve all 3-year-olds who meet the eligibility requirements before serving those students paying tuition or other students that do not meet the eligibility requirements.</p>	TEC §29.1531(a)(2) SAAH, Section 7.2.1
IV. Tuition	50. Can school districts charge tuition for children who qualify to attend prekindergarten?	<p>Yes. A school district may offer on a tuition basis or use district funds to provide an additional half-day of prekindergarten classes to children eligible for classes under Section 29.153.</p>	TEC §29.153(a) TEC §29.1531(a)(1)

IV. Tuition	51. How much can a school district charge for tuition to attend prekindergarten?	A district that offers a prekindergarten program on a tuition basis may not adopt a tuition rate for the program that is higher than necessary to cover the added costs of providing the program, including any costs associated with collecting, reporting, and analyzing data under Section 29.1532(c) and must submit the proposed tuition rate to the commissioner for approval. Tuition rate and approval information may found at TEA's tuition web page .	TEC §29.1531(b)(1) and (2)
IV. Tuition	52. May a district operate a child care center for ineligible children of district employees without being considered to have a 3-year-old prekindergarten program?	Yes. Operating a child care center for district employees or students does not necessarily constitute operating a 3-year-old prekindergarten program.	

IV. Tuition - Guidelines for Offering Tuition-Based Prekindergarten

District Program Description	District <u>may</u> offer tuition based services	District <u>may not</u> offer tuition based services
1. District operates a 4-year-old program and <u>not</u> a 3-year-old program.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ineligible 4-year-olds <u>after</u> all eligible 4-year-olds have been offered service. 2. To eligible 4-year-olds for an additional one-half day of service. 	To 3-year-olds.
2. District operates a 4-year-old program and <u>not</u> a 3-year-old program. District offers the 4-year-old program at designated campuses only and while there is capacity, parents decline to enroll their due to location preferences. <i>For example: Some campuses are full and others have space. The parent is offered service on a campus with space but chooses to not enroll their child because they would prefer their child attend a campus whose program is full.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ineligible 4-year-olds on campuses that have additional capacity after all eligible 4-year-olds have been offered service in the district, as long as no eligible child is denied service. 2. To eligible 4-year-olds for an additional one-half day of service. 	To 3-year-olds.
3. District operates a 4-year-old program <u>and</u> a 3-year-old program.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ineligible 3- and 4-year-olds after all eligible 3- and 4-year-olds have been offered service. 2. To eligible 3- and 4-year-olds for an additional one-half day of service. 	N/A
4. District operates a 4-year-old program <u>and</u> a 3-year-old program, but maintains a waiting list* for 3-year-olds for whom it does not have capacity.	None.	To 3- or 4-year-olds.
5. District operates a 4-year-old program and <u>not</u> a 3-year-old program, except for in SRI arrangements. District serves and collects ADA for 3-year-olds served in child care or Head Start sites. (See SRI section for complete description.)	1) None. Once the district provides service to one 3-year-old, they have a 3-year-old program and the same standards apply as scenario #4.	To 3- or 4-year-olds.

*A district may not maintain a waiting list for eligible 4-year-old students and TEA will not approve a waiver to allow a district to maintain a 4-year-old waiting list. If a district operates a 3-year-old program, the district may maintain a 3-year-old waiting list for eligible students without a waiver from TEA if the district does not have the capacity to serve all eligible 3-year-olds.

Category V: Prekindergarten Instruction

Prekindergarten Instruction — Curriculum			
Category V: Prekindergarten Instruction	Question	Answer	Citation
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Curriculum	53. Are there TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) or a required state curriculum for prekindergarten?	There are no Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for prekindergarten nor is there a required state curriculum. However, in an effort to align the prekindergarten program with the TEKS, prekindergarten curriculum guidelines have been developed and distributed to school districts. The Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines provide challenging but achievable skills and concepts that children in high quality prekindergarten programs are to know and be able to do in each subject area delineated in the kindergarten TEKS. The guidelines are organized into 10 skill domains that support integration of curriculum and build connections between and among all disciplines. Because there is no state required prekindergarten curriculum, use of these guidelines is voluntary.	TEC §28.002
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Curriculum	54. How do I use the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines with my special needs students?	Recently, the agency commissioned a companion document to the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines known as the Early Childhood Outcomes & Prekindergarten Guidelines Alignment . This document is designed to align each Prekindergarten Guideline to one or more of the three Early Childhood Outcomes, and provide educators and families with discussion prompts to explain how each outcome relates to the Guideline.	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Curriculum	55. How can I get copies of the <i>Early Childhood Outcomes & Prekindergarten</i>	The Early Childhood Outcomes & Prekindergarten Guidelines Alignment is available for downloading. ESC Region 13 also provides hard copies of the document on a cost recovery basis.	N/A

Prekindergarten Instruction — Curriculum

Category V: Prekindergarten Instruction	Question	Answer	Citation
	<i>Guidelines Alignment?</i>		
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Curriculum	56. Is there training available for the <i>Early Childhood Outcomes & Prekindergarten Guidelines Alignment?</i>	ESC Region 13 was the lead agent in developing the document and training. You may contact your local ESC or Region 13 for training options.	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Curriculum	57. Is prekindergarten included in the review and adoption cycle for textbooks?	Yes. The State Board of Education shall adopt a review and adoption cycle for textbooks for elementary grade levels, including prekindergarten and secondary grade levels, for each subject in the required curriculum under Section 28.002. In November 2010 the State Board of Education (SBOE) adopted instructional materials for prekindergarten systems. The new list and descriptions of materials may be found at the first link under the heading Proclamation 2011, Instructional Materials Adopted Under Proclamation 2011.	TEC §31.022(a)
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Curriculum	58. How can I get copies of the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines?	The Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines are available online for download and use within Texas at no cost.	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Curriculum	59. What is the copyright/royalty agreement for the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines?	Copyright 2008, the University of Texas System and Texas Education Agency. Permission for in-State, Texas uses: These Guidelines were developed at public expense to benefit Texas public school districts; Texas approved charter schools, Texas regional education service centers and other Pre-K Texas entities. Residents of and entities operating within the State of Texas may freely copy, distribute, create derivative products based on and publicly display and perform these Guidelines (“use the Guidelines”) for the intended beneficiaries. All	N/A

Prekindergarten Instruction — Curriculum

Category V: Prekindergarten Instruction	Question	Answer	Citation
		other uses (non-Texas uses) require the express permission of the copyright owners. For information, please contact the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Office of Technology Management, by telephone at 713-550-3369, or by email at otm@uth.tmc.edu .	
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Curriculum	60. Are there physical education requirements for prekindergarten?	Full-day prekindergarten students are required to participate in moderate or vigorous daily physical activity for at least 30 minutes throughout the school year as part of the district’s physical education curriculum or through structured activity during daily recess. To the extent practicable, half-day prekindergarten students are required to participate in the same type and amount of physical activity as a student enrolled in full-day prekindergarten.	TEC §28.002(l)
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Curriculum	61. Are teacher aides or assistants required in prekindergarten classrooms?	No. Policy regarding teacher aides/assistants in prekindergarten is a local district decision.	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Curriculum	62. Are children required to have a rest time in prekindergarten?	Policy relating to rest time has always been determined at the local district level.	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Curriculum	63. What does a developmentally appropriate schedule for half day and full day prekindergarten look like?	Schedules give children a sense of structure throughout their day so they can anticipate when specific activities will occur and how long these activities will be. This sense of anticipation facilitates children beginning to regulate their attention and emotions. It gives them a plan of their daily routine. For sample schedules and additional information, please see page 21 of the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines .	N/A

Prekindergarten Instruction—Program Quality

Category V: Program Quality	Question	Answer	Citation
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program Quality 	64. What is the Texas Kindergarten Readiness System (KRS)?	<p>The new Texas Kindergarten Readiness System (KRS) recognizes excellence in Texas early childhood education programs across the state. The KRS, formerly the School Readiness Certification System (SRCS), is a voluntary system used to evaluate the effectiveness of prekindergarten, Head Start, and community-based child care programs in preparing children for kindergarten. The Kindergarten Readiness System values local control and creative classroom efforts. High performing programs will be awarded the PreK Center of Excellence designation, a state of Texas gold standard for high quality prekindergarten.</p> <p>The KRS is the only system in the nation that accommodates all program types and uses input data from a student’s preschool as well as outcome data from the kindergarten reading diagnostic instrument to determine the effectiveness of early childhood education programs in preparing students for kindergarten.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KRS recognizes the positive impact of prekindergarten programs with a “PreK Center of Excellence” designation. • The KRS program values local control and creative classroom efforts that prepare preschoolers for success in kindergarten. • Any district or licensed prekindergarten program can join KRS using a simple and web-based application process. • The PreK Center of Excellence designation is considered a gold standard in high quality prekindergarten by the State of Texas. • This system is voluntary and offered at no charge. 	TEC §29.161 TEC §28.006(d)(3)
V.	65. Who may participate in	Any Texas school district prekindergarten program, licensed child care	N/A

Prekindergarten Instruction — Curriculum

Category V: Prekindergarten Instruction	Question	Answer	Citation
Prekindergarten Instruction – Program Quality	the KRS?	center or Head Start program currently serving prekindergarten students can now apply to be a Prek Center of Excellence. Non-licensed and registered child care homes are not eligible to participate in the KRS program at this time.	
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program Quality	66. What are the benefits of KRS participation for parents and children?	The KRS informs parents and communities about the positive student impact high quality early childhood education programs offer. This designation is offered by the state of Texas and assures parents that their children are getting the educational foundation they need to succeed in kindergarten.	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program Quality	67. What are the benefits of KRS participation for schools, licensed child care and Head Start programs?	<p>Participation in the lets parents and your community know your program cares about giving their children the very best start when they enter kindergarten.</p> <p>The KRS is a web-based system that is fully integrated with PEIMS and all kindergarten reading diagnostic instruments on the Commissioner’s approved list of instruments. It serves to inform school districts, communities, and early childhood programs about the quality of programs in the community and their ability to prepare children for success in kindergarten and beyond. For public schools, it serves to inform districts about which prekindergarten classrooms are succeeding and which require additional support. For licensed childcare, certification can result in increased revenue and enrollment. For Head Start programs, participation demonstrates the required collaboration with local school districts.</p>	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program	68. What burden does this application process place on my current	Registering has been simplified from the previous year. Data about your preschool program is entered into the KRS website once, which is designed to minimize data entry burdens. ISD campus-related information has already been preloaded into KRS. In addition, hundreds	N/A

Prekindergarten Instruction — Curriculum

Category V: Prekindergarten Instruction	Question	Answer	Citation
Quality	staff?	of licensed childcare centers and Head Start programs are pre-populated in KRS. Most data fields that are required to apply for the PreK Center of Excellence designation can be imported from existing file sources.	
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program Quality	69. Does KRS endorse specific models of teaching?	The KRS recognizes that numerous modalities are used in preschool classrooms across Texas. The KRS analytical approach does not impose biases or pre-conceptions as to how a PreK program should get students ready for kindergarten. Instead, it acknowledges local control and creative solutions by measuring how well a preschool program prepares children for success in kindergarten.	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program Quality	70. Does recognition in the KRS qualify subsidized child care programs for enhanced reimbursement rates from the Texas Workforce Commission?	Recognition in the KRS qualifies childcare providers for enhanced reimbursement rates since it is the state's authorized school readiness certification system.	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program Quality	71. When can my prekindergarten or preschool program apply?	The KRS is available for registration beginning March 20, 2012. It is important that you get your program's prekindergarten data submitted as soon as possible in order to be considered for the Prek Center of Excellence designation in 2013.	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction –	72. Is KRS participation mandatory?	The KRS is voluntary except for Texas Literacy Initiative and Texas School Ready! grant participants, whose participation is mandated under the state's grant. TEA is using the KRS to fulfill the evaluation	N/A

Prekindergarten Instruction — Curriculum

Category V: Prekindergarten Instruction	Question	Answer	Citation
Program Quality		requirements of these two grant programs. All other Texas preschools are welcome to participate in KRS and seek the PreK Center of Excellence designation.	
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program Quality	73. How does the agency determine if a KRS program is effective?	<p>The KRS is the only system in the nation that accommodates all program types and uses input data from a student’s preschool as well as outcome data from the kindergarten reading diagnostic instrument to determine the effectiveness of early childhood education programs in preparing students for kindergarten.</p> <p>Preschools simply enter information about their programs into a secure web-based system and then the KRS project does the rest. In the fall of each year, the KRS will collect kindergarten reading diagnostic results (the outcome data) from school districts. The project links student records from a prekindergarten program to their corresponding kindergarten literacy results so the impact of each applicant’s early childhood education program can be determined. Designations are awarded by the Texas Education Agency and Education Service Center 17.</p>	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program Quality	74. How much does it cost to apply for the PreK Center of Excellence designation?	This system is offered at no cost to public schools, licensed childcare providers and Head Start programs.	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program	75. What kindergarten literacy assessments are collected by the program?	Starting in the 2012-2013 school year, TEA’s plan is for the KRS system to collect outcome information from all the reading assessment instruments included on the Commissioner’s approved list.	N/A

Prekindergarten Instruction — Curriculum

Category V: Prekindergarten Instruction	Question	Answer	Citation
Quality			
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program Quality	76. When will my campus or center be named a PreK Center of Excellence?	The Texas Education Agency awards the PreK Center of Excellence designations in the spring, beginning spring 2013. Recognized programs will receive a congratulatory letter and means to download web banners, print materials, and school banners for use in notifying parents and their communities about this achievement. Non-recognized programs will be notified in writing and given information about research-based best practices and resources available to them for program improvement.	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program Quality	77. Is the PreK Center of Excellence designation an annual designation?	At this time, the designation is determined on an annual basis.	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program Quality	78. Does the agency use a prekindergarten assessment to determine kindergarten readiness?	No. The KRS analyzes other data from participating prekindergarten programs and from each student's kindergarten reading diagnostic instrument administered at the beginning of the child's kindergarten year.	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program Quality	79. How can a program register to be part of the KRS?	For registration information and access, go to https://tx.ereadi.com .	N/A
V.	80. Is technical assistance	Customer support is provided from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST at 866-	N/A

Prekindergarten Instruction — Curriculum

Category V: Prekindergarten Instruction	Question	Answer	Citation
Prekindergarten Instruction – Program Quality	for KRS provided?	336-3025, option 4 or KRS@oz-systems.com . E-mail and user manual support is available on the https://ereadi.com website.	
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program Quality	81. Is training available for the KRS?	Live and recorded WebEx (webinar) training sessions are available to support users starting March 26, 2012. Visit the TEA ECE webpage for additional information.	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program Quality	82. Where can I find more information about KRS criteria, funding, and participating prekindergarten programs?	TEA and ESC Region 17 fund a Help Desk for customer support for KRS. You may contact them at KRS@oz-systems.com or 866-336-3025, option 4. In addition, TEA maintains and Early Childhood Education website. The site contains fact sheets for agency administered ECE programs, including the KRS. KRS was formerly known as the School Readiness Certification System (SRCS) and fact sheets for both programs may be found on the TEA ECE web page.	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program Quality	83. How do I find a School Ready or Kindergarten Ready certified program?	TEA provides a searchable database to find certified Kindergarten Readiness programs. Visit the KRS website for additional information.	N/A
V. Prekindergarten Instruction – Program	84. Are there prekindergarten assessment or progress monitoring	In November of 2011, TEA issued a Texas Register Notice notifying publishers that reading diagnostic instruments for Prekindergarten through Grade 8 may be submitted for review for inclusion on the 2012-2013 Commissioner's List of Reading Instruments. The List is expected	Texas Register, Volume 36, Number 46.

Prekindergarten Instruction — Curriculum

Category V: Prekindergarten Instruction	Question	Answer	Citation
Quality	instruments on the Commissioner's List of Adopted Instruments?	to be final in spring 2012. Because there is no statutory requirement for schools to administer such assessments, use of instruments on the List is optional for districts, unless otherwise required.	Page 7900, November 18, 2011

Category VI: 5-Year-Olds and 3-Year-Olds

Category VI: 5-Year-Olds and 3-Year-Olds	Question	Answer	Citation
VI. 5-Year-Olds and 3-Year-Olds	85. Can a child who is 5-years-old on September 1 be enrolled in prekindergarten?	A child who is five years of age on September 1 of the current school year is not eligible for enrollment in a prekindergarten class. It is the agency's position that children who reach age five on September 1 are most appropriately served in kindergarten, and that the law specifically established the prekindergarten program to serve students who have not reached age five. Given the intent of the law, if a district enrolls a 5-year-old student in the prekindergarten program, the student must be reported as ineligible for ADA.	SAAH, Section 7.2.1
VI. 5-Year-Olds and 3-Year-Olds	86. Can 3- and 4-year-old children be served in the same class?	Yes. Students of both ages (3- and 4-year-olds) can be served in the same class.	SAAH, Section 7.2.1
VI. 5-Year-Olds and 3-Year-Olds	87. Can a district serve prekindergarten and kindergarten students in the same classroom?	Yes. Students of both grade levels can be served in the same class.	
VI. 5-Year-Olds and 3-Year-Olds 	88. Are school districts required to serve 3-year-old students who are eligible?	No. A district may offer prekindergarten classes if the district identifies 15 or more eligible children who are at least three years of age. A child who is three years old is eligible for prekindergarten only if the district operates a 3-year-old prekindergarten program. Districts may serve non-eligible 3-year-old students only after serving all eligible 3-year-olds. It is the agency's position that districts need to first serve all 3-year-olds who meet the eligibility requirements before serving those 3-year-olds paying tuition or other 3-year-olds that do not	TEC §29.153(a) SAAH, Section 7.2

Category VI: 5-Year-Olds and 3-Year-Olds	Question	Answer	Citation
		meet the eligibility requirements.	
VI. 5-Year-Olds and 3-Year-Olds	89. Can a child younger than five years of age enter kindergarten?	A student younger than five years of age is entitled to the benefits of the Foundation School Program if: (1) the student performs satisfactorily on the assessment instrument administered under Section 39.023(a) to students in the third grade; and (2) the district has adopted a policy for admitting students younger than five years of age.	TEC §42.003(d)
VI. 5-Year-Olds and 3-Year-Olds	90. Can a child be retained in prekindergarten?	Districts are responsible for local policies on promotion and retention. However, prekindergarten is intended for 3- and 4-year-olds and not considered a proper placement for 5-year-olds or older on September 1 and state prekindergarten funding is not provided for these children.	SAAH, Section 7.2.1

Category VII: Waiting Lists and Waivers

Category VII: Waiting Lists and Waivers	Question	Answer	Citation
VII. Waiting Lists and Waivers 	91. Can districts keep “waiting lists” of eligible children who are not being served?	Not for eligible 4-year-olds. By law, a school district must offer prekindergarten classes if it identifies 15 or more children who are eligible and are 4 years of age by September 1 of the current school year. If a district offers a program for eligible 3-year-olds and runs out of capacity, a waiting list or lottery for 3-year-olds only may be established under district policy. In this case, the district may not be serving ineligible 3- or 4-year-old students until all eligible 3- and 4-year-olds have been served. See Guidelines for Offering Tuition-Based Prekindergarten in Category IV above.	TEC §29.153(a)
VII. Waiting	92. Can TEA waive the	Yes. On application of a district, the commissioner may exempt a	TEC

Category VII: Waiting Lists and Waivers	Question	Answer	Citation
Lists and Waivers	requirement to begin a prekindergarten program?	district if the district would be required to construct classroom facilities in order to begin offering prekindergarten classes. A district waiver request must be accompanied by a plan from the district on how they will begin implementation of the program by the beginning of the school year following the request if the district continues to have 15 or more eligible students. Ongoing and continuous waivers and waivers requesting to not add students to an existing program will not be approved.	§29.153(d)
VII. Waiting Lists and Waivers	93. Can districts have prekindergarten teachers conduct home visits instead of classroom instruction?	A waiver must be obtained in order to conduct home visits instead of classroom instruction during the first weeks of school. However, unless a student is physically present in the classroom, the student must be counted absent.	N/A

Category VIII: Additional FAQs on Early Childhood

Category VIII: Additional FAQs on Early Childhood	Question	Answer	Citation
VIII. Additional FAQs on Early Childhood	94. Are school districts required to provide transportation for a prekindergarten program?	No, but transportation, if provided, is included for funding purposes as part of the regular transportation system.	TEC §29.153(c)
VIII. Additional FAQs on Early Childhood	95. What is the purpose of the prekindergarten program?	A school district's prekindergarten program shall be designed to develop skills necessary for success in the regular public school curriculum, including language, mathematics, and social skills.	TEC §29.1532(a)
VIII. Additional FAQs on Early Childhood	96. Do prekindergarten programs have to comply with child-care licensing standards?	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 Texas Department of Family and Protective Services under Section 42.042, Human Resources Code.	TEC §29.1532(b)
VIII. Additional FAQs on Early Childhood	97. When was the law for prekindergarten education enacted?	Among the reforms generated by the 68th Texas Legislature in 1983 was the emerging recognition of the importance of early childhood education for certain high-risk kindergarten students. During a special session in the summer of 1984, legislators passed House Bill 72. This bill mandated prekindergarten education for high-risk 4-year-olds in Texas public schools. The law for prekindergarten education, enacted in May 1985 became effective with the 1985-86 school year.	N/A
VIII. Additional FAQs on Early Childhood	98. What is the distinction between Prekindergarten (PK), Preschool Program for Children with	Prekindergarten (PK) is a grade level for children ages three and four. This includes students in a state-funded prekindergarten program or a locally-funded prekindergarten program. Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD) Special education services for children with disabilities aged 3 through 5. These students may have any	SAAH, Section 13, Glossary

Category VIII: Additional FAQs on Early Childhood	Question	Answer	Citation
	Disabilities (PPCD), and Early Education (EE)?	disability recognized under IDEA-B in Texas including non-categorical early childhood (see definition). Developmental delay is not a recognized disability for children over age 3 in Texas. A student over age 3 with a developmental delay is subject to the 2 hours of instruction per day rule for membership. Early Education (EE) is a grade level for students between the ages of zero and five who have not been placed in prekindergarten or kindergarten. This includes students receiving special education services who do not meet the two hours of instruction per day requirement for membership and students in Head Start programs who do not meet the requirements for state funds. This also includes students served by PPCD teachers in a licensed child care facility working in a collaborative partnership with a school district.	
VIII. Additional FAQs on Early Childhood	99. What is the distinction between Texas Education Code (TEC), Texas Administrative Code (TAC), and Student Attendance Accounting Handbook (SAAH)?	The Texas Education Code (TEC) contains the statutes governing public education in Texas. The Texas Administrative Code (TAC) includes rules adopted by the State Board of Education or the commissioner of education under authority granted by state law. The Student Attendance Accounting Handbook (SAAH) provides districts with the Foundation School Program (FSP) eligibility requirements of all students and the minimum requirements of all student attendance accounting systems.	SAAH, Section 13, Glossary