



Serving PK3 & PK4: A Comparison

Topics	PK3	PK4	Additional Information
LEAs that identify at least 15 eligible 3-year-old students is a local decision made by the LEA.	-old students is a local decision made by the LEA.	LEAs that identify at least 15 eligible 4-year-old students must offer a PK program.	TEC 29.153 (a-1)
PK Eligibility	Age criteria: Child must be 3 by September 1 st Eligibility criteria are the same for PK3 and PK4.	Age criteria: Child must be 4 by September 1 st Eligibility criteria are the same for PK3 and PK4.	TEC 29.153 (b) Link to PK Eligibility FAQs: https://tea.texas.gov/academics/early-childhood-education/early-childhood-education-faqs#pkeligibility
Enrollment	LEAs have the authority to determine how many eligible 3-year-old students to serve.	LEAs that identify at least 15 eligible 4-year-old students must offer a PK program for all eligible 4-year-old students, who are able to enroll throughout the school year.	TEC 29.153 (a-1)
Use of Waiting Lists	Allowed	Not allowed	TEC 29.153 (a-1)
Registration	LEAs may begin registration for PK3 on or after April 1 of each school year.	LEAs may begin registration for PK4 on or after April 1 of each school year. Registration for eligible 4-year-old students must be allowed throughout the school year.	
		LEAs can fund the remaining full-day costs of PK4 through other sources of funding, i.e., local district share funding, early education allotment funds, Title 1, and/or federal funding.	TEC 29.153 (c) TEC 48.005 (a) (4)

Topics	PK3	PK4	Additional Information
Tuition	<p>Tuition may be charged to provide:</p> <p>half-day and full-day prekindergarten classes to children who are ineligible for free prekindergarten classes; and</p> <p>an additional half-day of prekindergarten classes to those 3-year-old children who are eligible for free prekindergarten classes</p>	<p>Tuition may be charged to provide:</p> <p>half-day and full-day prekindergarten classes to children who are ineligible for free prekindergarten classes;</p>	<p>Prekindergarten Tuition: https://tea.texas.gov/academics/early-childhood-education/prekindergarten-tuition</p>
Half-day vs full-day & Required Minutes	<p>Half-day and/or full-day programs are allowed.</p> <p>LEAs who choose to offer a full-day PK3 program would need to fund the other half-day with other sources of funding.</p> <p>A half-day PK3 program requires 32,400 instructional minutes per year.</p>	<p>A full-day program is mandatory unless the LEA has a current full-day prekindergarten waiver in place with TEA.</p> <p>A full-day prekindergarten program for eligible four-year-old students requires 75,600 operational minutes per year.</p>	<p>Link to waiver application: https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/waivers/state-waivers</p> <p>Full-</p>

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Teacher Qualifications			

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<p data-bbox="113 139 361 204">Family Engagement Plan</p>	<p data-bbox="386 139 959 241">LEAs should write, implement, and put on their website a family engagement plan that contains the six required components.</p>	<p data-bbox="984 139 1528 241">LEAs must write, implement, and put on their website a family engagement plan that contains the six required components.</p> <p data-bbox="984 282 1470 347">The family engagement plan contains six required components:</p> <ul data-bbox="1031 354 1522 451" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1031 354 1507 386">• Facilitating family-to-family support <li data-bbox="1031 388 1522 451">• Establishing a network of community resources 	<p data-bbox="1568 139 1995 492">Additional information regarding the Family Engagement Plan requirements, including the six required components and implementation details.</p>

Topics	PK3	PK4	Additional Information
Mixed-Age Group Classrooms	PK3 and PK4 students can be served in the same classroom. *Classrooms with eligible four-year-old students must meet all the High-Quality Prekindergarten Components.	PK3 and PK4 students can be served in the same classroom.	
Meals	Students must be offered meals/snacks in alignment with the National School Lunch Program.	Students must be offered meals/snacks in alignment with the National School Lunch Program.	https://squaremeals.org/Programs/NationalSchoolLunchProgram.aspx
Transportation	Offering transportation for PK3 students is a local decision. Transportation can be funded as part of the LEA's regular transportation system.	Offering transportation for PK4 students is a local decision. Transportation can be funded as part of the LEA's regular transportation system.	TEC 29.153 (c)

Additional resources are available on the Early Childhood Education webpages at <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/early-childhood-education>.