

# NEISD's Pre-Kindergarten Program 2009-10

## Parents' Most Frequently Asked Questions

All NEISD Pre-Kindergarten programs are half-day.

### 1. What are the requirements for a child to be enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten in NEISD?

Children must be at least four years of age on or before September 1 and live in the North East Independent School District.

Additionally, a child must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Child is unable to speak or comprehend the English language (Home Language Survey must be completed, child must be tested for English acquisition, and child must qualify for the program), or
- Child is homeless, as defined by [42 USC 11302], or
- Child is educationally disadvantaged (meets income eligibility to qualify for the National Free or Reduced Lunch Program), or
- Child meets the criteria for parent serving on active duty in the armed forces, including a child of a member who was hurt or killed on active duty, or
- Child is or ever has been in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services following an adversary hearing, including children who are currently in foster care, have been adopted or returned to their parents after being in DFPS conservatorship.

### 2. My child does not meet any of the qualifications for being enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten and I pay taxes. Why can't my child attend public school?

Pre-Kindergarten is not a required grade in the State of Texas. As a school district, we are required to offer services for children who are four years old and meet one of the criteria outlined above.

### 3. What is needed to enroll a child?

The minimum required forms for enrollment are: an updated immunization record, birth certificate, proof of residence (utility bill or lease agreement with student's name listed) and parent ID. The child's Social Security card is helpful, but optional. Additional documentation is needed based on qualifying criteria.

### 4. Can you give me a list of the schools that have Pre-Kindergarten, and tell me which school my child should attend?

Fifteen of our elementary schools have Pre-Kindergarten classes. Please complete the registration forms at the NEISD elementary school nearest to your home to see if your child qualifies for the program. At the time that registration is complete, your "home campus" will be able to provide you with complete attendance information.

**5. Is there transportation for Pre-Kindergarten?**

Yes, NEISD provides transportation to students who qualify for it. Allow five (5) working days from day transportation is requested. Transportation will notify you with your student's schedule. For transportation information, please call 657-8816 or 491-9980.

**6. My child has a late birthday, and is advanced. Can he/she be tested to attend kindergarten or another upper grade?**

NEISD does not have a policy for Pre-Kindergarten children to advance to another grade. A child must be at least five years of age on or before September 1 of the school year to attend Kindergarten.

**7. Are there tuition-based, space-available Pre-Kindergarten programs?**

No, tuition-based, space-available Pre-Kindergarten programs are not available in NEISD.

**8. My child does not live in NEISD. Am I able to pay tuition to use NEISD schools?**

No, out-of-district transfers are not provided for Pre-Kindergarten.

**9. I am on active duty in the military, where do I go to enroll my child?**

Your "home campus" (campus nearest to your home) will be happy to handle Pre-Kindergarten registration for you.

In support of United States troops actively serving in the military, NEISD provides Pre-Kindergarten services to 4-year-olds whose parent(s) is/are full-time in the military or in the reserves and called to active duty. This does not include reservists who attend once-a-month training. They are a reservists that have NOT been activated/mobilized. The Texas Education Code states that 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 the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty qualifies for Pre-Kindergarten. A child who is eligible for enrollment in a Pre-Kindergarten class remains eligible for enrollment if the child's parent leaves the armed forces, or is no longer on active duty, after the child begins a Pre-Kindergarten class.

**10. Can my child still qualify for Pre-K under active duty military if his/her parents are divorced and he/she does not live with the military parent?**

Yes, the 2009-2010 Student Attendance Accounting Handbook, states *"If a student has a parent in the U.S. military, he or she is eligible for PK regardless of whether the student's parents are married or where the military parent resides."*

The handbook further explains:

*"Parent" includes a stepparent. A stepchild is eligible for PK enrollment whether or not the child resides in the same household as the stepparent.*

**11. Can my child attend the A.M. session even though his/her home campus is assigned to the P.M. session?**

No, due to projected enrollment numbers for each session and bus scheduling, students must attend the session they have been assigned.