

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD pre-K application process, deadlines modified due to COVID-19 closure

April 22, 2020 - The Houston Independent School District pre-K application process for the 2020-2021 school year has been modified due to the districtwide closure and current restrictions involving social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The application process for pre-K is now online, and application deadlines have been extended. Parents without online access who require paper applications may call HISD's Office of School Choice at 713-556-6734 for assistance.

"We are making changes necessary to keep our youngest scholars and their families safe as they register for pre-K instruction during the COVID-19 crisis while pursuing our goal of providing equitable educational access to as many children as possible," HISD Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan said.

Phase two of the pre-K application process is currently open for parents seeking full-day, quality instruction for their 3- and 4-year-old students at schools across the district for the 2020-2021 school year.

Due to the closure, remaining pre-K application dates and enrollment procedures have been adjusted as follows:

PHASE 1

June 1 (previously May 1) – Parents who applied during Phase 1, which closed February 28, will receive an email and letter notifying them if their child has been offered a spot in a free, full-day pre-K 4 program in HISD.

June 15 – Parents who received June 1 notifications have a deadline of June 15 to go to the school that has offered their child a slot to verify their child's TEA qualifications and enroll. If schools remain closed, online enrollment may be implemented.

Also, by this date, children requiring English as a Second Language testing must take the exam to enroll. If testing is not available at that time due to closure, the pre-K slot will be offered and labeled "qualified, pending" provided test completion takes place prior to enrollment.

PHASE 2

March 1 - August 24 – Parents can apply online for additional spots in HISD's pre-K program until August 24.

June 16 – Parents whose children are TEA-eligible for free, full-day pre-K 4 and on a waitlist will be notified by individual campuses beginning June 16 about the status of their application.

PHASE 3

June 21 (previously June 1) – Parents who applied for pre-K 4 but whose children are not TEA-eligible for the free, full-day program will be notified on June 21 that they have the option of paying tuition to enroll their child at a school that has slots available.

Parents who applied for free pre-K 3 for their TEA-eligible children will receive notifications beginning June 21 about the status of their applications.

Parents may complete a pre-K application by visiting ChooseHISD.com or by clicking [here](#) and uploading the documentation listed below:

- Parent income (check, award letter, child support, SSD)
- Proof of address (utility bill such as electricity, gas, water, or lease)
- Child’s original birth certificate
- Child’s immunization record
- Parent identification

Again, parents without online access who require paper applications may call 713-556-6734 for assistance.

To be eligible for enrollment in HISD’s free, full-day pre-K 4 program, a child must be 4 years of age on or before September 1 of the enrolling school year and a resident within HISD boundaries. Children do not have to be zoned to a specific campus to attend a pre-K program.

The child must also meet one of the following criteria:

- Unable to speak and understand English
- Economically disadvantaged (eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program)
- Child of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces
- Has ever been in state foster care
- Homeless (no documents needed to enroll)
- Child of a person eligible for the Star of Texas Award

Students who attend pre-K in the 2020-21 school year will benefit from engaging, hands-on instruction, high-quality teachers in every classroom, free meals, and supports to address mental and physical health needs. Optional bilingual classrooms are available.

HISD PRESS OFFICE | 713-556-6393 | PressOffice@HoustonISD.org | HoustonISD.org/HISDmedia

The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States, with 280 schools and more than 209,772 students. The 333-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than 27,000 employees.

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 4400 West 18th Street | Houston, Texas 77092-8501
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