

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD Pre-K Application Process Now Open

February 29, 2024 - The Houston Independent School District (HISD) is now [accepting applications](#) from families who want to enroll their child in Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) this fall. Applications close April 22, 2024. HISD will notify families about Pre-K placements on May 10. Families must accept their placement by May 30.

Pre-K is open to all children who live within HISD boundaries and will be three or four years old as of September 1, 2024. Access to high-quality early childhood education is a critical component of the Destination 2035 vision for HISD. These unique learning experiences—rooted in exploration, creativity, and play—prepare children to start kindergarten ready to read and learn at grade level from day one.




HISD has implemented a new streamlined enrollment process this year. Interested families should fill out a Pre-K application unless their child is in Pre-K3 and will continue in Pre-K4 at the same school or early childhood center in the fall. All applications go through the District to ensure more equitable access to Pre-Kindergarten seats.


In addition, for the first time, HISD is beginning to zone Pre-K. Families who want their child to attend Pre-K at their zoned school should indicate that preference on their application. In most cases, students who wish to attend their zoned school will automatically be placed there and will not need to participate in a lottery. There may be some exceptions if the school does not have available space. The District is working to create enough seats in the future for all zoned students to attend their zoned school. Families who want their child to attend Pre-K at a campus they are not zoned to can still apply to their school of choice and may receive a seat through the lottery process. HISD follows State of Texas regulations regarding the priority with which students are placed in Pre-K. When a lottery is needed, the District will first prioritize “eligible” (tuition-free) PreK-4 students, followed by non-eligible PreK-4 students, eligible Pre-K3 students, and non-eligible Pre-K3 students. To be “eligible” for free Pre-K, a student must meet one of seven requirements: emergent bilingual, homeless, currently or formerly in foster care, economically disadvantaged, eligible for Head Start, a child of an active-duty member of the U.S. military, or a child of a person honored with the Star of Texas Award.

HISD has approximately 12,000 students in Pre-K at 159 elementary schools and eight early childhood centers. The Pre-K school day runs from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. It includes writing, read-aloud time, and hands-on learning experiences to spark students’ curiosity and foster healthy social development. Children engage in activities involving problem solving, self expression, math concepts, art, and computers. They also have physical education time and a daily nap.

To assist families with the application process, HISD will have in-person support hubs and Pre-K festivals throughout the enrollment period. For more information about those supports as well as documents needed to register for Pre-K, please see the flyer [here](#) or visit houstonisd.org/schoolchoice.

The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the eighth-largest in the United States, with 276 schools and nearly 190,000 students. The 333-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than 27,000 employees.

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