

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
Workforce Programs
Technical Assistance Bulletin 300

Keyword: Child Care

Subject: Prekindergarten Partnerships

Date: July 1, 2022

This Technical Assistance (TA) Bulletin provides Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) with guidance on actions that Boards may take to support prekindergarten (pre-K) partnerships and on implementing [House Bill \(HB\) 2607](#), 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2021).

Background

In 2019, the 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, enacted HB 3, which requires local education agencies (LEAs) such as school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide full-day pre-K to eligible four-year-old children and includes a provision for pre-K partnerships to expand access to pre-K services. On January 8, 2020, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) issued WD Letter 02-20, titled “Prekindergarten Public-Private Partnerships and Wraparound Child Care,” which describes the implications of HB 3 and provides guidance on wraparound services, blended rates, and additional instructional days.

HB 2607 requires Boards to inform LEAs of opportunities to partner with child care providers in the Boards’ local workforce development areas (workforce areas) to expand access to and provide facilities for pre-K programs. A pre-K partnership (also referred to as an early learning partnership) is a collaboration between a public school pre-K program and a quality-rated child care program to provide high-quality care and education to eligible three- and four-year-old children. Partnerships may be either formal or informal.

Formal partnerships are those in which children are dually enrolled in public school pre-K and a qualified child care program. These children receive pre-K instruction and wraparound care (the hours before and after pre-K instruction) in one setting, typically in a qualified child care program. HB 3 defines a qualifying program as a:

- Texas Rising Star provider with a Three- or Four-Star certification;
- Texas School Ready participant;
- nationally accredited program;
- Head Start program provider; or
- program that meets the requirements under Texas Education Code §29.1532.

Additionally, a formal partnership providing pre-K instruction to children who are four years old or older must comply with the program standards required for high-quality pre-K instruction as

defined in Texas Education Code [§29.176](#). For more information on formal partnerships, visit the Texas Education Agency's (TEA) [Early Learning Partnerships website](#).

Informal partnerships exist when an LEA and one or more child care programs share resources and information with each other. For example, the LEA may share school-readiness expectations and professional development opportunities, and the child care program may invite the LEA's pre-K teachers to attend trainings on conscious discipline or developmentally appropriate teaching strategies.

Pre-K Partnership Recommendations

Texas Rising Star Programs

Boards are required to annually inform LEAs about opportunities to partner with child care providers in their area for pre-K partnership programs. It is recommended that starting no later than August 1, 2022, Boards provide their LEAs a [list of child care programs](#) in their workforce area that are Texas Rising Star Three- and Four-Star rated on a quarterly basis. Texas Rising Star Three- and Four-Star child care programs are higher-quality programs, which are best suited to provide public school pre-K. TWC Pre-K Partnership specialists and regional education service centers may assist in identifying LEAs within their workforce areas who are appropriate for outreach (for example, may still require additional pre-K capacity in order to serve all eligible children who are three and/or four years of age).

Pre-K Training Materials and Data

The TWC Child Care & Early Learning Division (CC&EL) provides online resources for Boards seeking more information about how pre-K partnerships may help them meet the needs of families in their workforce area.

TWC's [Prekindergarten Partnerships web page](#) provides an overview of the pre-K partnership initiative and resources. Some resources include:

- presentations and training materials shared during TWC and TEA's 2021 Pre-K Partnership Summit, as well as other resources for Boards to develop their regional plans to support the pre-K partnership initiative; and
- the [Statewide Early Childhood Education Data Excel spreadsheet](#), which is organized by workforce area and includes data on public school pre-K enrollment and kindergarten-readiness in the 2019–2020 school year. A similar spreadsheet for the 2020–2021 school year is forthcoming.

Additionally, at least twice a year, TWC will provide Boards with a list of all the children who are enrolled in the Child Care Services program and who may qualify for public school pre-K based on age, income, and/or home language spoken. Boards may use this data to identify how many children may be eligible for public school pre-K when communicating with child care programs or LEAs that might be interested in establishing a pre-K partnership. The list will be distributed to Boards via email.

The Workforce Information System of Texas (TWIST)

It is recommended that Board staff indicate in TWIST all child care providers that have secured a signed pre-K partnership agreement with an LEA. It is recommended that Board staff make updates on an ongoing basis as partnerships are established, modified, and/or renewed.

The screenshot below shows where the partnership details appear in TWIST under the Services/Schedule tab.

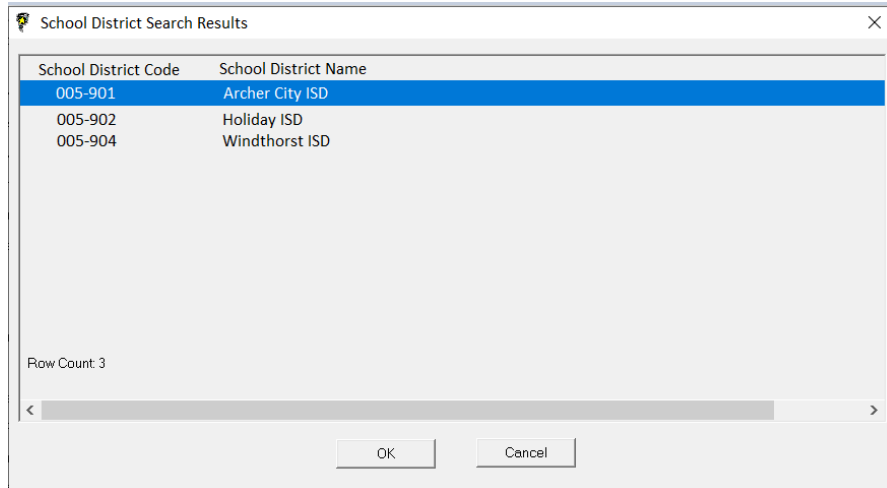
The screenshot displays the 'WDA Administration' interface. On the left is a 'Menu Selections' tree with 'Child Care Provider' selected. The main area shows the 'Services/Schedule' tab for a provider named 'Family Gatherings' with license number '1645434'. The 'Provider Services and Schedule' section includes:

- Agnes Served:** Four dropdown menus for 'Infant (0 - 17 months)', 'Toddler (18 months - 2 yrs)', 'Preschool (3 yrs - 4 yrs)', and 'School (5 yrs and older)', all set to '1-Yes'.
- Licensed Capacity:** A text field containing '91'.
- Programs Provided:** A list of checkboxes including 'Special Needs Care', 'Accredited', 'Accepts Child-Care Subsidies', 'Get Well Care', 'Educational Program for Pre-Kindergarten', 'After School Care', 'Educational Program for Kindergarten and Above', 'Drop-In Care', 'Special Skill Classes', 'Part Time Care', 'Transportation Provided', 'Weekend Care', and 'Field Trips'.
- Partnerships:** A section for 'Pre-Kindergarten' with checkboxes for 'Age 3' and 'Age 4', and a checkbox for 'Head Start/Early Head Start'.
- School District Code:** A text field with '015-908'.
- School District Name:** A text field with 'South San Antonio ISD' and a 'Search' button.
- Hours of Operation:** A table with columns for days of the week (Mon-Sun) and rows for 'Start' and 'End' times.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Start	06:00 AM	06:00 AM	06:00 AM	06:00 AM	06:00 AM	00:00 AM	00:00 AM
End	06:30 PM	06:30 PM	06:30 PM	06:30 PM	06:30 PM	00:00 PM	00:00 PM

Staff may indicate whether the partnership is pre-K or Head Start/Early Head Start and select the LEA with which the provider partners in the School District Code and School District Name fields. The screenshots below show where the details appear in TWIST and a view of the Search field.

This is a close-up of the 'Partnerships' section from the previous screenshot. It shows the 'Pre-Kindergarten' section with checkboxes for 'Age 3' and 'Age 4' selected, and 'Head Start/Early Head Start' unselected. Below this are the 'School District Code' field (containing '015-908') and the 'School District Name' field (containing 'South San Antonio ISD') with a 'Search' button.



Texas Child Care Availability Portal

It is recommended that Boards encourage child care programs in their workforce areas to update the [Texas Child Care Availability Portal](#) with their openings, including those in the programs’ three- and four-year-old classrooms. This public site may be viewed by anyone and can help families and LEAs find high-quality child care programs in their workforce area.

TWC Pre-K Partnership Staff

CC&EL hired two state-level staff members (state coordinator and assistant state coordinator) and will hire a total of 25 local pre-K partnership staff members to support the pre-K partnership expansion initiative approved by TWC’s three-member Commission. Boards and Education Service Centers may coordinate efforts with TWC pre-K partnership staff to support LEAs and child care programs throughout the partnership development process.

Additionally, TWC has developed a partnership interest form for child care programs and LEAs that are interested in establishing a pre-K partnership. TWC pre-K partnership staff will use the information collected through the partnership interest form to connect directly with potential partners. Boards and Education Service Centers may share the interest form with child care programs and LEAs beginning in Summer 2022.

Please send inquiries regarding this TA Bulletin to prekpartnerships@twc.texas.gov.

References

House Bill 2607, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2021)

House Bill 3, 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2019)

[Child Care Development Block Grant COVID-19 Federal Funding, Fourth Tranche of New Initiatives, Discussion Paper](#)

[WD 02-20, issued January 8, 2020, and titled “Prekindergarten Public-Private Partnerships and Wraparound Child Care”](#)

[WD 09-22, issued July 1, 2022, and titled “Prekindergarten Partnerships” TWC Prekindergarten Partnerships](#)