

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING DIVISION
Child Care Policy
Technical Assistance Bulletin 316

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Subject: **Prekindergarten Partnerships**

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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, including implementing [Texas Labor Code §302.00436](#) and indicating which child care providers have pre-K partnerships in the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) child care case management system, Texas Child Care Connection (TX3C).

Recissions

TA Bulletin 300

Background

In 2023, the Texas Legislature added [§302.0051](#) to the Texas Labor Code, which requires TWC to administer a pre-K partnership program through the passage of House Bill (HB) 1615, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2023).

The TWC Pre-K Partnership Program helps eligible child care providers and local education agencies (LEAs), such as school districts and open-enrollment charter schools, to establish pre-K partnerships (which are also referred to as early learning partnerships).

TWC issued [WD Letter 02-20](#), titled “Prekindergarten Public-Private Partnerships and Wraparound Child Care,” on January 8, 2020. WD Letter 02-20 describes the implications of pre-K partnerships for Boards and provides guidance on wraparound services, blended payment rates, and additional instructional days. Additionally, Texas [Labor Code §302.00436](#) requires Boards to notify the LEAs in their local workforce development areas (workforce areas) about opportunities to establish pre-K partnerships with local child care programs.

A pre-K partnership is a collaboration between an LEA 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 pre-K partnerships are those in which children are dually enrolled in public school pre-K and an eligible 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. Texas [Education Code §29.171](#) defines an “eligible child care program” as a provider that:

- is licensed and in good standing with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS);
- is accredited by a research-based, nationally recognized, and universally accessible accreditation system approved by the Texas Education Agency (TEA);
- is Texas Rising Star Three- or Four-Star certified;
- is a Texas School Ready participant;
- has an existing partnership with a school district to provide a pre-K program not provided under Subchapter E-1 of Texas [Education Code §29.153](#); or
- is accredited by an organization that is recognized by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission.

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 §29.1532](#). For more information on formal partnerships, visit the TEA [Early Learning Partnerships](#) website.

Child care providers and LEAs may also establish informal pre-K partnerships in which LEAs and child care programs share resources and information. This may include professional learning opportunities, progress monitoring, and curriculum. Children are not dually enrolled in informal partnerships; therefore, funding is not passed through the LEA to the child care program.

TWC Pre-K Partnership Staff

The TWC Pre-K Partnership department is composed of two state-level staff members (a state coordinator and an assistant state coordinator) and 11 regionally located staff members. The Pre-K Partnership department serves as a resource to support and expand pre-K partnerships throughout the state. This includes the following services:

- Informing and engaging potential partners to let them know of the opportunity to establish a pre-K partnership
- Bringing interested entities together and helping them establish a partnership that best meets the needs of their programs and the families they serve
- Assisting providers with the application process for the \$25,000 award for new eligible pre-K partnership classrooms
- Providing guidance for partnership sustainability
- Coordinating efforts with stakeholders such as Boards and Education Service Centers

Recommendations: Texas Rising Star Programs

Each Board is required to inform LEAs about the opportunity to establish pre-K partnerships with child care providers in the Board's workforce area annually. The TWC Pre-K Partnership department may help Boards identify LEAs located in their workforce areas. As part of this notification, Boards should provide LEAs with a list of child care programs in their workforce areas that are Texas Rising Star Three- and Four-Star certified. These programs are eligible to establish a pre-K partnership with an LEA under Texas Education Code §29.171 and may be eligible to apply for TWC's Pre-K Partnership Classroom Award, which assists providers with certain costs associated with a new pre-K partnership classroom.

Recommendations: Pre-K Training Materials and Data

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

TWC's [Prekindergarten Partnerships](#) web page provides an overview of the Pre-K Partnership department and relevant resources, including:

- a three-part video series about pre-K partnership financial modeling for LEAs; and
- statewide early childhood education data spreadsheets organized by workforce area with information on public school pre-K enrollment and kindergarten readiness for previous school years.

Additionally, TWC will provide Boards with a list of formal pre-K partnerships that have been established with the support of TWC in each Board's workforce area once a year. This list will be distributed to Boards via email.

Recommendations: TX3C

TWC recommends that Board staff members indicate in TX3C all child care providers that have secured a signed pre-K partnership agreement with an LEA. It is recommended that Board staff members make updates on an ongoing basis as partnerships are established, modified, and/or renewed.

The screenshot below shows where the partnership flag appears in TX3C under the **Provider** navigation menu section's **Provider** tab.

Boards must ensure the effective date and all required field information are entered. Staff members choose **Select** in the **Flags** field to select the appropriate partnership.

KinderTrack Save Cancel

Skip

Provider Details

Search Results: << < > >> Remove No records selected

*Effective Date: [Calendar Icon]

Provider ID: [Text Box]
 Type of Care: [Text Box]
 Tax ID or SSN: [Text Box]
 TX License Number: [Text Box]
 Last Name: [Text Box]
 First Name: [Text Box]
 *Business Name: [Text Box]
 Tax Payer Name: [Text Box]
 *Status: [Dropdown]
 Contracted: ☐
 *Care Address 1: [Text Box]
 Care Address 2: [Text Box]
 *City: [Text Box] [Map Icon]
 *State: [Text Box]
 *Zip Code: [Text Box] Ext.: [Text Box]
 *County: [Dropdown]
 Phone: [Text Box] Ext.: [Text Box]

*RMR Region: [Dropdown: Alamo]
 Worker: Smith, Jillian Select >>
 Payment Technician: Select >>
 Mail Address 1: [Text Box]
 Mail Address 2: [Text Box]
 Mail City: [Text Box] [Map Icon]
 Mail State: [Text Box]
 Mail Zip Code: [Text Box] Ext.: [Text Box]
 Languages: Select >>
 *Flags: Select >>
 *Attendance Method: [Dropdown]
 Fax: [Text Box]
 Notes: [Text Area]

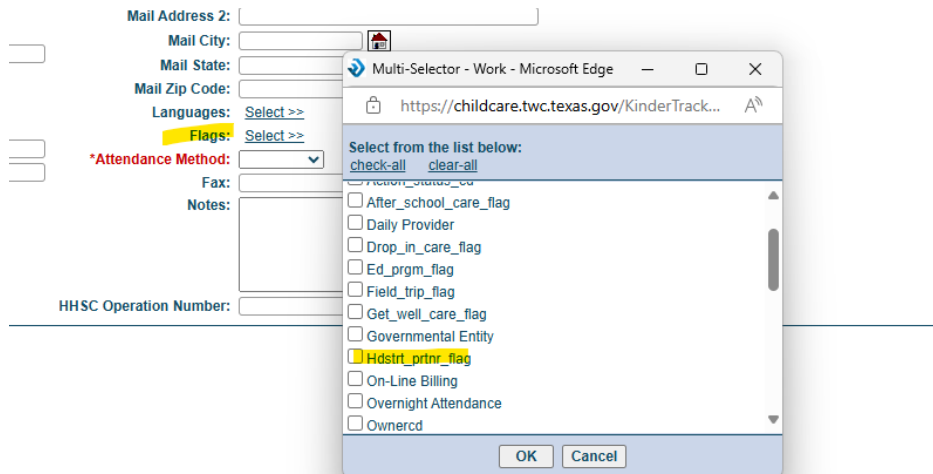
HHSC Operation Number: [Text Box] Search >>

Navigation Menu:
 Home
 Family
 Provider
 Alerts
 Search
 Summary
 Provider
 Fiscal Info
 Contacts
 Type Of Care
 Rates
 Profile
 Notes
 Payments
 Attributes
 Modified Days
 RFI
 Families
 Transfer
 Levy
 Documents
 Agreements
 Legacy Case Notes
 Payment
 Reports
 Intake
 Operator
 Program
 Administration

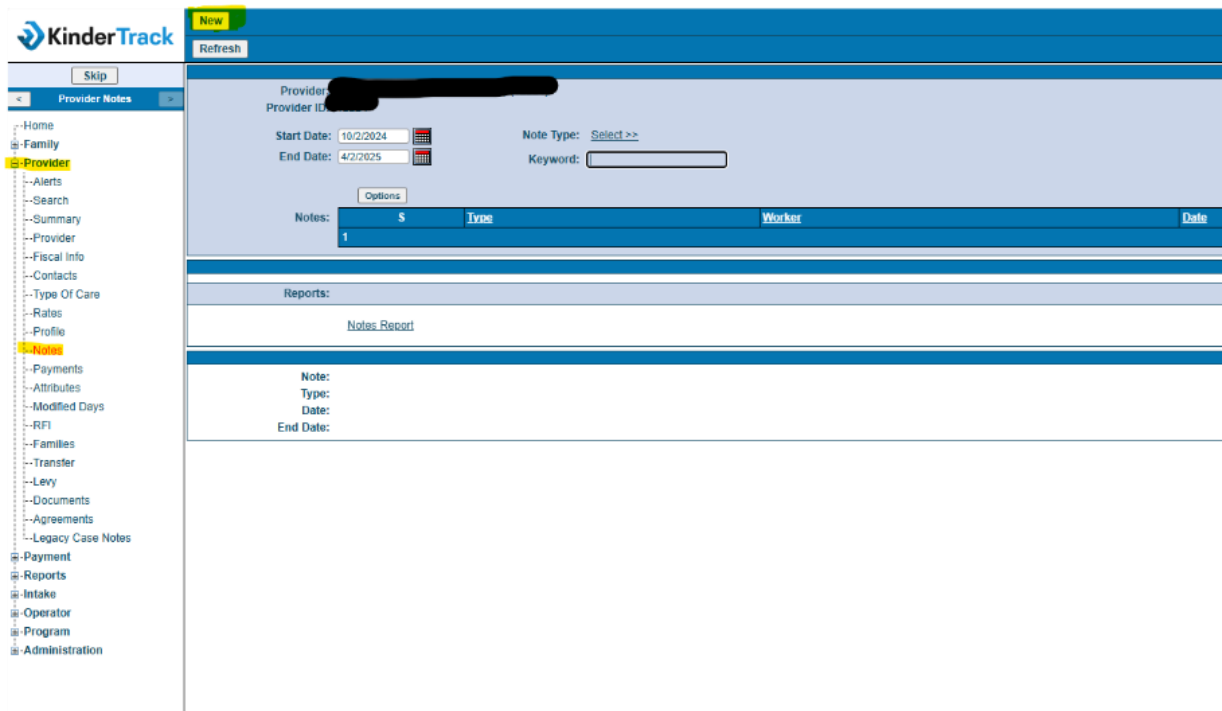
Staff members may indicate whether the partnership is pre-K (**Pre_k_prtnr_age3_flag** or **Pre_k_prtnr_age4_flag**) or Head Start/Early Head Start (**Hdstrt_prtnr_flag**) in the **Flags** field by checking the appropriate box. Staff members select **OK**, then select **Save** at the top of the **Provider** screen.

Payment Technician: Select >>
 Mail Address 1: [Text Box]
 Mail Address 2: [Text Box]
 Mail City: [Text Box] [Map Icon]
 Mail State: [Text Box]
 Mail Zip Code: [Text Box]
 Languages: Select >>
 *Flags: Select >>
 *Attendance Method: [Dropdown]
 Fax: [Text Box]
 Notes: [Text Area]
 HHSC Operation Number: [Text Box]

Multi-Selector - Work - Microsoft Edge
 https://childcare.twc.texas.gov/KinderTrack...
 Select from the list below:
 check-all clear-all
☐ Partnership General
☐ Partnership Limited
☐ Payment Days Prohibited
☐ Pre_k_ed_prgm_flag
☒ Pre_k_prtnr_age3_flag
☒ Pre_k_prtnr_age4_flag
☐ Priority Payment
☐ Private, for Profit
☐ Private, Non-profit
☐ Prohibit Enrollment
☐ Provider System Flag
 OK Cancel



To specify the LEA the provider partnered with, staff members navigate to the **Provider** navigation menu section's **Notes** tab as seen in the screenshot below. Staff members select **New**.



Staff members enter LEA details in the **Note Type:** drop-down menu into the **Notes** field and select **General** for **Type**. When notes are entered, staff members select **Save** at the top of the page.

The screenshot displays the KinderTrack 'Provider Notes' form. At the top, there are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons. The form fields include 'Provider ID' (redacted), 'Start Date: 10/2/2024', 'End Date: 4/2/2025', 'Note Type', and 'Keyword'. Below these is an 'Options' section with a table of notes. The table has columns for 'Notes', 'S', 'Type', 'Worker', and 'Date'. One note is listed with ID '1'. Under the 'Reports' section, there is a 'Notes Report' link. At the bottom, there is a 'New Note' button, a dropdown menu set to 'General', and a 'Date' field.

Recommendations: Texas Child Care Availability Portal

TWC recommends Boards encourage child care programs in the Boards' workforce areas to update the **Texas Child Care Availability Portal**, now located on the [TX3C](#) web page, with the programs' openings, including those in 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.

Please distribute this information to appropriate staff members. Send inquiries regarding this TA Bulletin to prekpartnerships@twc.texas.gov.

Attachments

None

References

Texas [Education Code §29.171](#)

Texas [Education Code §29.1532](#)

Texas [Labor Code §302.00436](#)

Texas [Labor Code §302.0051](#)

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

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

[WD Letter 09-22, issued July 1, 2022, and titled "Prekindergarten Partnerships"](#)

[TWC Prekindergarten Partnerships](#)