

## Diana E. Perez

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**From:** Diana E. Perez  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 2, 2022 4:33 PM  
**Cc:** Bryan P. Walker  
**Subject:** PreK Pre-Registration - Eligibility

Good afternoon,

As LEAs prepare or are undertaking PK pre-registration for next school year, it is recommended that you review PK student eligibility.

Please reference the [SAAH Section 7 Prekindergarten \(Pre-K\)](#) for the official standard of required information and rules for student attendance accounting.

Below are some additional [notes](#) to keep in mind.

Please review and share as needed.

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### **Subject:** Pre-K Eligibility

For SY 2022-2023, all documentation eligibility requirements has to be collected on or after April 1<sup>st</sup>. If LEAs hold pre-registration before, then they have to consider the verification documentation because anything collected before April 1<sup>st</sup> has to be collected and re-verified again. A district may not claim a student as eligible for pre-K funding in SY 2022-2023 until documentation is on file.

The SAAH states the following:

#### **7.2.1 Pre-K Eligibility and Age**

- To be eligible for enrollment in a pre-K class, a child must be three or four years of age on September 1 of the current school year.
- A child who is three years old is eligible for pre-K only if your district operates a three-year-old pre-K program.
- *New for 2021-2022:*
  - *A child who is five years of age on September 1 of the current school year is eligible for enrollment in a pre-K class if the child's parent or guardian elects for the child to repeat pre-K in accordance with the TEC, §28.02124, or*
  - *if the child would have been eligible to enroll in pre-K during the previous school year under the TEC, §29.153(b), and the child has not yet enrolled in kindergarten.*

**To be eligible for enrollment in a Pre-K class, a child must be age eligibile and must meet one of the following requirements:**

#### **7.2.2 Pre-K Eligibility Based on a Student's Identification as an English Learner (EL)/Emergent Bilingual (EB)**

- Many districts preregister pre-K students to determine and plan for the size of the next school year's pre-K program. Districts may begin this process on or after April 1 of each year. A district may not claim a student as eligible for pre-K funding until this documentation is on file

- Additional info: From April on, but they'd have to do the Home Language Survey, OLPT, and LPAC identification. (TEA ECDS)

### 7.2.3 Pre-K Eligibility Based on Being Educationally Disadvantaged (Eligible for the NSLP)

- Many districts pre-register pre-K students to determine and plan for the size of the next school year's pre-K program. If you are collecting an income survey/lunch application, since income level documentation must be current for a student to qualify for pre-K based on eligibility for the NSLP, **your district must verify income level documentation on or after April 1 of each school year.**
  - Additional info: Since it has to be verified, the family must provide proof of income.
  - If a student is determined eligible by income no earlier than April 1st, then they would remain eligible for the entire 22-23 school year even if their income changes.
    - Or vice-versa, if there is a change in economic status, they may re-submit the documentation to be eligible for economic disadvantage status. (TEA ECDS)
  - The Income Surveys/School Lunch Applications have to be verified against the 22-23 Income Eligibility Guidelines.
    - These will be published to: <https://squaremeals.org/FandNResources/IncomeEligibilityGuidelines.aspx> around March (You have to expand on the "The following guidelines apply to the CACFP, NSLP, SBP and SFSP" section). See the grid labeled: Effective July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 .
    - They will also get posted at this ESC site: <https://www.esc1.net/Page/2236>

### 7.2.4 Pre-K Eligibility Based on Homelessness

- Many districts preregister pre-K students to determine and plan for the size of the next school year's pre-K program.
- Additional info: The homeless verification would need to be current for the 22-23 school year enrollment, not this Spring 2022. Such as an updated Student Residency Verification form. (TEA ECDS)

### 7.2.5 Pre-K Eligibility Based on a Parent's Membership in the Armed Forces

- Many districts preregister pre-K students to determine and plan for the size of the next school year's pre-K program. Districts may begin this process on or after April 1 of each year.
- Additional info: *The military documents would need to state that they are active duty a month prior to the start of school.*
- *If they are injured while on active duty and have a letter from the VA stating a service connected disability, they may use that in April.* (TEA ECDS)

### 7.2.6 Pre-K Eligibility Based on a Child's Having Been in Foster Care

- Students who are in or who have ever been in the conservatorship of the Texas DFPS (that is, in foster care) following an adversary hearing or
- NEW: were in foster care in another state or territory but now reside in Texas are eligible for free pre-K.
- Many districts preregister pre-K students to determine and plan for the size of the next school year's pre-K program. Districts may begin this process on or after April 1 of each year.

### 7.2.7 Pre-K Eligibility Based on a Parent's Star of Texas Award

- Such as a peace officer under [Texas Government Code, §3106.002](#)
- A firefighter under [Texas Government Code, §3106.003](#)
- An emergency medical first responder under [Texas Government Code, §3106.004](#)

- Many districts preregister pre-K students to determine and plan for the size of the next school year's pre-K program. Districts may begin this process on or after April 1 of each year.

**Last Resort Review for PK Eligibility:**

Student is eligible for enrollment in a prekindergarten class because

- A four-year-old student was eligible for enrollment at the age of three in the previous school year, but are not eligible through other criteria, or
- A five-year-old student was eligible for enrollment at the age of four in the previous school year, and the parent requested they be retained in prekindergarten.

Code ADA eligible along with PK-ELIGIBLE-PREVIOUS-YEAR-INDICATOR-CODE.

Thank-you,

**Diana Pérez**

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