

BOERNE ISD PREKINDERGARTEN Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of a prekindergarten program?
 - The district's prekindergarten program is designed to develop skills necessary for success in the regular public school curriculum, including language, mathematics, and social skills.
2. What prekindergarten programs does the district offer?
 - A half-day class is offered at Cibolo Creek Elementary School for eligible children who are at least four years of age by September 1 of the current school year.
 - A full-day class is offered at Curington Elementary School for eligible four-year-old children who are unable to speak and comprehend the English language.
 - A Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD) for eligible three- through five-year-old children. Depending upon the child's evaluation and needs, he/she may attend half-day or full-day PPCD.
3. What are the eligibility criteria for prekindergarten?

A student is eligible for prekindergarten if he/she meets at least one of the following criteria:

 - Is unable to speak and comprehend the English language; or
 - Is educationally disadvantaged; or
 - Is homeless, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 1145a, regardless of the residence of the child, of either parent of the child, or of the child's guardian or other person having lawful control of the child; or
 - Is the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority; or
 - Is the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty; or
 - Is or ever has been in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services following an adversary hearing held as provided by Section 252.201, Family Code.
4. What is the definition of "educationally disadvantaged?"
 - The term, "educationally disadvantaged," means the student is eligible to participate in the national free or reduced-price lunch program. The Income Eligibility Guidelines for Determining Free and Reduced-Price Benefits will be available by July 1. Parents may access the 2010-2011 eligibility chart via www.squaremeals.org
5. Is the district required to collect current income level documentation from the family of each student that qualifies as "educationally disadvantaged?"
 - Yes. In order for a student to qualify for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the student's family is required to provide the district with current income level documentation. Since income level documentation must be current to qualify for the NSLP, the district must verify income level documentation no more than two months prior to the student's first day of membership.
6. What can be used to document income eligibility?
 - Documents that show **current income**, meaning income **received** by the household **during the month prior to verification**, are required. The document should contain the name of the household member, amount and the date the income was received.
 - Acceptable documentation for earnings (wages and salary) is:
 - Current paycheck stub
 - Current pay envelope
 - Letter from employer stating gross wages paid and how often they are paid
 - Acceptable documentation for self-employment income is:

- Business or farming documents, such as ledger books and/or self-issued paycheck stub
- Last year's tax return
- Acceptable documentation for cash income is:
 - A letter from the employer stating wages paid and frequency

7. Is it necessary for a student to participate in the National School Lunch Program in order to qualify for prekindergarten?

- No. To qualify for prekindergarten on the basis of being educationally disadvantaged means that a student is eligible to participate in the NSLP but is not required to do so.

8. How long is the school day for prekindergarten students?

- The full-day prekindergarten class at CES meets from 7:40-2:40. The half-day prekindergarten class at CCES meets from 7:40-10:40.

9. Is an eligible student required to attend prekindergarten?

- No. However, on enrollment in prekindergarten, a child must attend school. Prekindergarten students are subject to compulsory school attendance rules while they are enrolled in school. If a child has not reached mandatory compulsory attendance age (6 years old as of September 1 of the current school year) the child's parent or guardian may withdraw the student from school, and the child will not be in violation of compulsory attendance rules.

10. Can a student be retained in prekindergarten?

- No. Prekindergarten is not a proper placement for a child who is age five or older on September 1.

For more information regarding the district's prekindergarten programs, contact

- Bilingual PreK: Mrs. Jean Perry, Principal Curington Elementary School, (830) 357-4005
- Half-Day PreK: Mrs. Laurel Babb, Principal Cibolo Creek Elementary School, (830) 357-4405
- PPCD: Mrs. April Langston, Director of Special Education, (830) 357-2095
- National School Lunch Program: Mrs. Cheryl Rayburg, Food Services Director, (830) 357-2064

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