



Redwater Independent School District

PRE-KINDERGARTEN ELIGIBILITY

ELIGIBILITY:

- ☐ To be eligible for enrollment in a pre-kindergarten class, a child must be four years of age on September 1 of the current school year.

Additional state-mandated requirements (Student must meet at least one of the eligibility requirements below):

*If additional information is requested regarding eligibility, please contact the school office.

- ☐ Educationally disadvantaged (*eligible to participate in the National Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Program*). Please complete attached pre-qualification and attach proof of income.
- ☐ Unable to speak and comprehend the English language. Student must be tested and qualify as limited English proficiency.
- ☐ Homeless
- ☐ Child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserved component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority. Documentation must be provided.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Child who has ever been in the conservatorship (foster care) of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) following an adversary hearing.

If student does not meet any of the above state-mandated requirements, they may be admitted based on the list below.

APPLICATION ADMISSION PRIORITY

Non-qualifying students may be accepted on a space available basis after all four year old qualifying students have been served. Students within each category (numbers 2-8 below) will be admitted according to date of application submission. Pre-K Round-up during the week of April 1-5, 2019 will be the first date applications will be accepted for the following school year. Non-qualifying students will be notified of admission status during the first week of June.

Pre-Kindergarten students shall be accepted for admittance to the pre-k program in the following order:

1. Eligible students who reside in the district.
2. Ineligible students who reside in the district. * ³
3. Eligible students of district employees who reside outside of the district. ²
4. Ineligible students of district employees who reside outside of the district. * ^{2 3}
5. Eligible students who reside outside of the district with siblings currently enrolled in RISD. ²
6. Ineligible students who reside outside of the district with siblings currently enrolled at RISD. * ^{2 3}
7. Eligible students who reside outside the district. ²
8. Ineligible students who reside outside of the district. * ^{2 3}

*Would be charged tuition fee (\$2, 000/year) which may be paid in monthly payments throughout the school year.

² Must fill out transfer paperwork at administration office.

³ All ineligible students must be potty-trained.



PRE-KINDERGARTEN ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

A student enrolled in the pre-kindergarten program in RISD becomes subject to the same attendance requirements of all RISD students.

When students are not able to attend class, parents should call the school office and report the absence. A written excuse from the parent or a doctor's note is required upon the student's return to class.

Per state law, a student must be in attendance for at least 90% of the days the class is offered to obtain credit of the class. Student appeals on absenteeism may be made to the campus attendance committee.

WARNING NOTICES: The State Compulsory School Attendance law requires that (Sec. 25.095) a school district shall notify a student's parent in writing if, in a six-month period, **the student has been absent without an excuse five times** for any part of the day. Also, if the student is absent without an excuse for **10** or more days, or parts of days in a six month period, the student's parent is subject to prosecution under Section 25.093.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Documentation for Prekindergarten:

The following sections provides the requirements and documents needed for each group of students:

English Language Learners

Students who qualify because they are unable to speak and comprehend English must have the following documentation on file:

- Home language survey: School districts must administer the home language survey in English and Spanish; for students of other language groups, school districts must translate the home language survey into the home language whenever possible. The home language survey must contain the following questions ([19 TAC §89.1215 \(b\)](#))
 - What language is spoken in your home most of the time?
 - What language does your child speak most of the time?
- Proof of a qualifying score on an approved Oral Language Proficiency Test. The school district must document the official scores in the student's records.
- Documentation of the limited proficiency assessment committee's identification of the student as an English language learner.

Educationally Disadvantaged

Students who qualify because they are educationally disadvantaged must have income documentation on file.

Acceptable documentation for earnings (wages and salary) include:

- Current paycheck stub
- Current pay envelope
- Letter from employer stating gross wages paid and how often they are paid
- Unemployment, Worker's Compensation, or Disability payment stub

Acceptable documentation for self-employment income includes:



- Business or farming documents, such as ledger books or self-issued paycheck stub
- Last year's tax return (Self-employment)

Acceptable documentation for cash income is a letter from the employer stating wages paid and frequency.

When providing written evidence of proof of income, parents or those standing in parental relation to the student must submit documents that show income received by the household during the month before verification. The document ought to contain the name of the person standing in parental relation, and amount of income, and the date received. A pay stub with no date would be insufficient. Reported gross income is any money received on a recurring basis, including gross earned income. Specifically, gross income means all money earned before any deductions, such as income taxes, employee's social security taxes, insurance premiums, bonds, and charitable contributions.

Homeless

Students who qualify because they are homeless must fit the definition of homeless as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11302 and 42 U.S.C. Section 11434(a).

Military

Students who qualify because they are the child of an active duty, injured, or killed member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserved component of the armed forces must have the following documentation on file:

- Documentation that a district employee verified the student's US Department of Defense (DoD) photo identification for children of active duty service members. The documentation must include the printed name and signature of the person who verified the identification and the date of verification. If the student has not been issued such an ID, then documentation must be on file that a district employee verified the military member's DoD photo identification (or other DoD-issued documentation indicating that the person is an active-duty member of the military) and verified documentation showing that the student is a child of the military member. The documentation to be kept on file must include the printed name and signature of the person who verified the DoD and other documentation and the date that it was verified, as well as a



photocopy of the documentation showing that the student is a child of the military member.

Important: Your district should **not** make a copy of DoD identification.

- A statement of service from the installation adjutant general director of human resources for children of active members, mobilized reservists, or members of the Texas National Guard. This office would use the military personnel systems and documentation to verify that the service member is in fact on active duty in Texas or a Texas mobilized reservist. For Texas National Guard members (army or air guard), the Texas National Guard's Office of the Adjutant General may provide documentation or an official letter from a commander (at or above the lieutenant colonel or, for the navy, at the commander level) confirming active or mobilized status, which is acceptable documentation.
- A copy of the death certificate using the service-appropriate DoD form, or a DoD form that indicates death as the reason for the separation from service, for children of service members who died or were killed. If the DoD form is not available, the family would ask the casualty assistance office of the closest casualty area command (in Texas) to provide a memorandum signed by the casualty office stating that the service member was killed in action or died while serving.
- A copy of Purple Heart orders or citation for children of service members or mobilized reservists or guardsmen wounded or injured in combat.
- A copy of the line of duty determination documentation for children of service members or mobilized reservists or guardsmen who were injured while serving active duty but were *not* wounded or injured in combat.
If this documentation is not available, a copy of an official letter from a commander (at or above the lieutenant colonel or, for the navy, at the commander level) that states that the service member was wounded or injured while on active duty is acceptable. A copy of a letter from the US Department of Veterans Affairs indicating that the service member is eligible for disability compensation is also acceptable.
- Documentation that a service member is MIA for children of service members who are MIA.

Department of Family and Protective Services

DFPS will mail a verification letter of prekindergarten eligibility to the parent or caregiver of students who qualify because they are, or ever have been, in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services following an adversary hearing, as provided by Section 262.201, Family Code.



Districts must accept the DFPS letter as proof of eligibility to enroll these children in free prekindergarten. For assistance in obtaining a letter, please contact the [DFPS Education Specialist](#) in your area for assistance or for a description of other forms of proof of eligibility.

Child of Star of Texas Award Recipient

The office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division honors recipients annually in September. The resolution (certificate) awarded to an individual serves as proof of eligibility to enroll these children in free prekindergarten if they are age-eligible. A list of past honorees may be viewed on the [Criminal Justice Division-Past Honorees webpage](#). If an individual has a pre kindergarten-aged child and has been nominated, but not notified as an honoree prior to the current school year, an individual may make a request to the Office of Early Childhood Education to make an eligibility determination based on the nomination submitted for review to the Criminal Justice Division.