



**Rockwall**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## **Prekindergarten 2023-24**

### **Enrollment - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **Is my child eligible for PreK in the fall?**

- In order to be eligible for Pre-K enrollment your child must be 4 on or before September 1, 2023 and must meet one of the eligibility requirements.

#### **My child will be 4 September 2, 2023. Can I still register my child to attend PreK?**

- No, in order to qualify, your child must be 4 on or before September 1 of the current school year. Students that are 5 on or before September 1 of the current school year are encouraged to enroll in Kindergarten.

#### **When is the first day of school for the 2023-2024 school year?**

- August 14, 2023

#### **When can I register for the 2023-2024 school year?**

- Tuition PreK has a limited number of spots that opened January 16, 2023 for employees and January 30th for the community. Please visit [Rockwallisd.com/EarlyChildhood](http://Rockwallisd.com/EarlyChildhood) website. \$150 Non- Refundable Registration required.
- Qualifying PreK and Early Head Start - Enrollment opened March 27, 2023
- Early Childhood Special Education - Contact the Special Education Dept. for information at 972.772.1175

#### **What are the eligibility requirements for PreK?**

Your child must meet at least one of the following:

- The child is limited English proficient; or
- The child is educationally disadvantaged (which means a student eligible to participate in the national free or reduced-price lunch program; or
- The child is homeless, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 1143a, 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
- The child is a 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
- The child 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
- The child is or ever has been in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care) following an adversary hearing held as provided by Section 262.201, Family Code; or
- The child is the child of a person eligible for the Star of Texas Award as: a peace officer under Section 3106.002 Government Code; a firefighter under Section 3106.003, Government Code; or an emergency medical first responder under Section 3106.004, Government Code.

## **What if my son/daughter does not qualify according to the criteria listed above?**

- The Texas Legislature determines the eligibility criteria for free, public prekindergarten in Texas. One of the criteria must be met in order to enroll. If you do not qualify for Texas Qualifying PK, you may want to consider registering for our Tuition PK (if spots are available).

## **What are the steps to enroll my son/daughter?**

- The first step is to go online and complete the New Student online enrollment process - available March 27. Be sure to upload all required documents before the application is submitted
- Second step - if required documents were not uploaded onto the application, submit the required documents to the campus.
- To finalize enrollment, schools will work with each family to ensure all eligibility requirements are met
- \*Tuition PreK Registration Opens - January 30, 2023 (\$600 per month for Aug.-May)

## **What documents are allowed to prove my child's age and identification?**

The following documents are considered acceptable.

- Original Birth certificate
- Statement of the child's date of birth issued by the division of the Texas Department of State Health Services responsible for vital statistics for school admission purposes
- Passport
- School ID card, records, Report card
- Military ID
- Hospital Birth record
- Adoption records
- Church Baptismal record

## **What documents show proof of residency?**

- Homeowners: Current utility bill (water, gas, or electric) and driver's license with same address, or
- Renters: Official lease agreement with landlord contact information AND current utility bill (water, gas or electric) or
- Contract to build (date of occupancy in the semester you are wishing to enroll). Utility bill must be supplied upon move-in

## **What documentation is allowed to determine if my child is eligible for PreK based on income?**

- Current paycheck stubs
- Letter from employer stating gross wages paid and how often they are paid
- Unemployment, worker's compensation or Disability payment stub
- Last year's tax return from self-employment

## **What is the income level for a household to qualify as educationally disadvantaged?**

- The income level is based on the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) federal income eligibility guidelines established annually by the US Dept. of Agriculture.

## **Can I use my SNAP, TANF and/or Medicaid documents for prekindergarten eligibility?**

- Yes, a household may submit proof of SNAP, TANF and/or MEDICAID that contains the group/case number, the effective date / end date of benefits and the beneficiary/student's name. Lone Star and/or MEDICAID cards/account numbers are not acceptable forms of verification.

## **What documentation do I need to provide to demonstrate that my child is eligible based on the military criteria?**

- If the parent is on active duty, please provide 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.
- If the parent is a disabled veteran, please provide a copy of a current letter from the US Department of Veterans Affairs indicating that the service member is eligible for disability compensation.

## **What documentation or process is needed to determine if my child is eligible for Pre K based on his or her limited English proficiency?**

- Once the new student enrollment application is received in-house and the Home Language Survey indicates that another language other than English is spoken in the home, we will schedule an appointment for an oral language proficiency test for the student. The results will determine eligibility for Qualifying Pre K.

## **Is PreK required for all students?**

- No, prekindergarten is not mandatory. However, upon enrollment in prekindergarten, a child must attend school. All students are subject to compulsory school attendance rules while they are enrolled in school.

## **Does Rockwall ISD offer a PreK program for 3 year olds?**

- Rockwall ISD has an Early Head Start Program for ages birth to 4 years old.
- Rockwall ISD has a transition classroom for students that are currently enrolled in Early Head Start.
- Rockwall ISD has an Early Childhood Program for Children with Disabilities (ECSE). ECSE is a program for children ages 3-5 who have been identified with a developmental disability in one or more areas. Please contact our Special Education Department at 972.772.1175

## **What if the PreK program that my child is zoned for is full?**

- Qualifying PreK - If your zoned school is full, Rockwall ISD will place the student according to the overflow campus pattern. Transportation is provided.
- Tuition PreK - There are limited spots available for Tuition PreK. Spots typically sell out quickly in January/February, the year prior to school starting.

## **Can I pick the school that I want my child to go to?**

- No, specific addresses have schools they are zoned to attend. For more information, go to the Rockwall ISD website, and under the Transportation, there is an "Infofinder" link that will tell you exactly what school your home address is zoned to and if there is a bus route assigned.
- Under Tuition PK, you have the option to pick any Tuition based campus; however, transportation is not provided unless you attend your home zoned campus.

## **Will my child be attending a full-day or half-day PreK?**

- PreK is only offered for full-day instruction, please check with your attendance zoned school for start times and end times.

## **Do PreK students have to follow district attendance requirements?**

- PreK is not mandatory but if your child is enrolled in a PreK/Early childhood Program they must follow the district attendance requirements.

### **I do not live within the Rockwall ISD attendance zone; can I still enroll my child in Rockwall ISD?**

- No, out-of-district students may not enroll in the PreK program.

### **Do I have to take my child to school, or will there be bus transportation to and from school?**

- Qualifying PK students who live more than a 2-mile radius from the attending campus must be registered for bus service before they can begin riding the bus. Once the student is approved for PK, please be sure to let us know that transportation will be needed so that he/she is routed for the bus, the parent/guardian will be notified and services may begin.

### **How can I find out if I qualify for the Qualifying PreK program before I register for Tuition PreK or all the Tuition spots are reserved?**

- Per Texas Education Agency, we cannot verify any PreK qualifications before the April 2023 enrollment date. The documentation to support the qualifying criteria is listed in the FAQ's. If you register to reserve your spot for Tuition PreK and then are eligible for Qualifying PreK, you will be refunded the registration fee minus a \$25.00 processing fee. Any student that qualifies will be served at a PreK campus according to attendance zone guidelines.

### **Do you offer after-school care?**

- Yes, we have a program for after-school care from 3:00-6:00 PM. Visit our website to learn more about it. <https://www.rockwallisd.com/ROCK>

### **Is breakfast and lunch provided?**

- Families need to apply for the Free Breakfast and Lunch program. Students that do not qualify for free or reduced meals may buy meals or bring their own food from home.

### **My child is not potty trained, can he/she still attend Pre-K?**

- The student must not be excluded from eligibility. Eligible students are not required to be potty trained; however, the school and the parent must establish guidelines for managing these situations.
- Potty training prior to the start of school is highly encouraged.