

(REQUIRED BY LAW)

(b) An open-enrollment charter school is subject to: . . . prekindergarten programs under Subchapter E, Chapter 29.

Education Code 12.104(b)(2)(G).

POLICY

Tuition-Free Program

Jubilee Academic Center (“School”) shall offer tuition-free prekindergarten classes if it identified 15 or more eligible children who are at least four years of age. The School may offer tuition-free prekindergarten classes if it identifies 15 or more eligible children who are at least three years of age.

Exemption

The School may apply to the Commissioner for an exemption from the requirement that it provide a free prekindergarten program if the School would be required to construct classroom facilities in order to provide the program.

Half-Day Basis

A tuition-free prekindergarten class shall be operated on a half-day basis.

Program Eligibility

A child is eligible for enrollment in free prekindergarten if the child is at least three years of age and:

1. Is unable to speak and comprehend the English language;
2. Is educationally disadvantaged;
3. Is homeless, as defined by federal law, 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;
4. 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;
5. 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
6. Is or ever has been in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services following an adversary hearing under Family Code 262.201.

A child who is eligible for enrollment under item 4 or 5 above remains eligible if the child's parent leaves the armed forces, or is no longer on active duty, after the child begins the prekindergarten class.

Public Notice

The Superintendent shall develop a system to notify the population in the community with children eligible or enrollment of the availability of the program. The system must include public notices issued in English and Spanish.

Annual Report

The School shall report annually to the TEA, on a form proscribed by the Commissioner, the strategies implemented by the School to increase community awareness of the School's prekindergarten program. The report may be combined, at the discretion of the Commissioner, with another report that the School submits to the TEA.

Transportation

The School is not required to provide transportation for a prekindergarten class. If transportation is required, it is included for funding purposes as part of the regular transportation system.

Education Code 29.153, 29.1534.

Tuition-Supported and School-Financed Prekindergarten

The School may offer on a tuition basis or use School funds to provide:

1. An additional half-day of prekindergarten classes to children eligible for free prekindergarten; and
2. Half-day and full-day prekindergarten classes to children not eligible for free prekindergarten.

The School may not adopt a tuition rate for the program that is higher than necessary to cover the added costs of providing the program, including any costs associated with collecting, reporting, and analyzing data under Education Code 2.1532(c) (regarding PEIMS data for prekindergarten programs). The School must submit its proposed tuition rate to the Commissioner for approval.

Education Code 29.1531.

Program Requirements

The School's prekindergarten program shall be designed to develop skills necessary for success in the regular public school curriculum, including language, mathematics, and social skills.

Education Code 29.1532(a).

Daily Physical Activity

Students in full-day prekindergarten shall participate in moderate or vigorous daily physical activity for at least 30 minutes throughout the school year, as part of the School's physical education curriculum or through structure activity during a campus's daily recess.

To the extent practicable, students enrolled in prekindergarten on less than a full-day basis shall participate in the same type and amount of physical activity as a student enrolled in full-day prekindergarten.

If the School determines that requiring moderate or vigorous daily physical activity is impractical due to scheduling concerns or other factors, the School may require that students participate in moderate or vigorous physical activity for at least 135 minutes during each school week.

The School must provide an exemption for a student who is unable to participate in the required physical activity because of illness or disability.

Education Code 28.002(l)

Prekindergarten Grants

The School may use funds from grants administered by the Commissioner to:

1. Expand an existing half-day prekindergarten program to a full-day program; or
2. Implement a prekindergarten program at a campus that does not offer such a program.
3. Employ teachers and other personnel for a prekindergarten program;
4. Acquire curriculum materials or equipment, including computers, for use in the prekindergarten program; or
5. To contract with another entity, including a private entity.

Education Code 29.155

Ready to Read Grant

The School may apply for a Ready to Read grant if at least 75% of the children enrolled in the prekindergarten program are low-income students, as determined by Commissioner rule..

Grants funds shall be used for:

1. Professional staff development in prereading instruction;
2. Prereading curriculum and materials;

3. Prereading skills assessment materials; and
4. Employment of prereading instructors.

Education Code 29.157.

Coordination of Services

In a manner consistent with federal law and regulations, the School shall coordinate with the TEA, the Texas Workforce Commission, and local workforce development boards regarding subsidized child-care services.

Education Code 29.158.

Statewide Information and Referral Network

The School shall provide the Texas Information and Referral Network with information regarding eligibility for and availability of child-care and education services (including services provided through a prekindergarten or after-school program) for inclusion in the statewide information referral network. The School shall provide the information in a form determined by the executive commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, and shall update the information at least quarterly.

When necessary, staff of the Texas Information and Referral network shall send an electronic mail message to the School containing the name of and contact information for an applicant for child-care and education services and a description of the services the applicant is seeking.

On receipt of such an electronic mail message, the School shall contact the applicant to verify information regarding the applicant's eligibility for available child-care and education services and, on certifying eligibility, shall match the applicant with entities providing those services in the applicant's community, including local workforce development boards, local child-care providers, or a Head Start or Early Head Start program provider.

The District shall cooperate with the Texas Information and Referral Network as necessary in the administration of this project.

Gov't Code 531.0312, 531.03131.

Establishment of New Program

Before establishing a new prekindergarten program, the School shall consider the possibility of sharing use of an existing Head Start or other child-care program site as a prekindergarten site.

Education Code 29.1533.

Contracting with Private Entity

If the School contracts with a private entity for the operation of its prekindergarten program, the program must at a minimum comply with the applicable child-care licensing standards adopted by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services under Human Resources Code 42.042.

Education Code 29.1532(b).

General Definitions

For purposes of this policy, “child” includes a stepchild and “parent” includes a stepparent.

Education Code 29.183(a).