



July 25, 2017

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: Free Prekindergarten: Star of Texas Award Eligibility Criterion

During the 85th legislative session, an additional prekindergarten eligibility criteria was created to provide free public prekindergarten to children of peace officers, firefighters and first responders who have demonstrated remarkable courage and heroism in serving and protecting their communities throughout the state.

Free Public Three- and Four-Year-Old Prekindergarten

In 2017, the Texas Legislature amended via House Bill 357 [Section 29.153](#) of the Texas Education Code (TEC) to include among those who are eligible for free public prekindergarten, a child of a person eligible for the Star of Texas Awards. House Bill 357 was signed by Governor Abbott on June 15, 2017 and is effective immediately.

Summary of Prekindergarten Eligibility for Certain Children:

A child is eligible for free prekindergarten if they are four years old on or before September 1 of the current school year and meets one of the seven criteria listed below. A district may offer (but is not required to offer) a three-year-old program to eligible children, and the same criteria would apply. Age is always calculated as of September 1, of the current school year (for purposes of establishing eligibility). Therefore, a child is eligible for enrollment in prekindergarten if at least three years of age and:

1. is unable to speak and comprehend the English language;
2. is educationally disadvantaged (which means a student 12 792 reWree

