

Prekindergarten Application Overview

2025-2026

Early Childhood Department
Office of School Choice



Session Norms

Be Present



Be Respectful



Be Inquisitive



Be Involved



What Pre-K Parents Need to Know

A young child with curly hair, wearing a light blue shirt, is smiling and holding a colorful toy flower. The background is blurred, showing other children and colorful toys.

How do I qualify?

Where do I apply?

When can I apply?

What schools can I apply to?

Where can I find help?

How Do I Qualify?



Apply for Pre-K

Students enrolling in
Pre-K at HISD for the
first-time next year
must be 3 or 4 before
September 1, 2025



Eligibility Requirement for **FREE** PK Program

For free full-day Pre-K, the child must be 3 or 4 years old by September 1st, 2025, live within HISD boundaries, **and** meet **one** of the following:

Unable to speak and comprehend the English language	Homeless (family lives with a family member, hotel, car, shelter, etc.)
Is or has ever been in foster care	Economically disadvantaged (meet income requirement, meet free lunch eligibility, SNAP or TANF #)
Meet any eligibility criteria for Head Start	Child of an active-duty or reserve member of armed forces or child of an armed forces member injured, killed, or missing in action while on active duty
Be the child of a person awarded the Star of Texas Award that has been injured or killed in the line of duty as a peace officer, firefighter, or an emergency medical first responder.	

Required Documents

Child's official birth certificate

Proof of address
(utility bill dated within 30 days, lease agreement, etc.)

Child's immunization record

Photocopy of parent ID
(it can be from another country or expired)



Additional Documents for **FREE** Pre-K



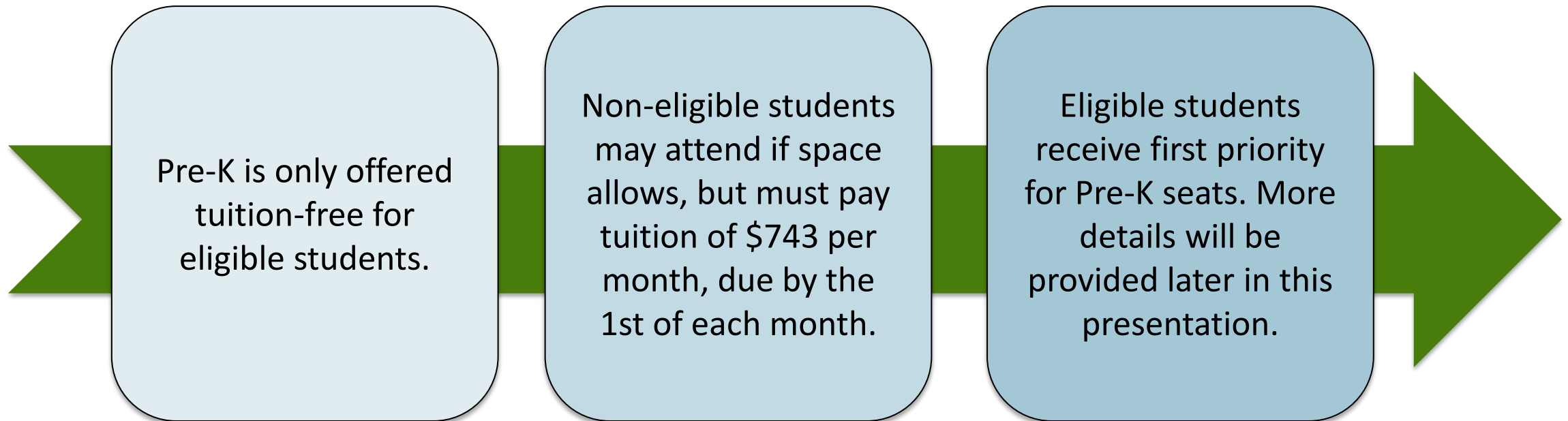
Proof of income
(current pay stub, TANF, SNAP eligibility letter, etc.)

Proof of foster care
(letter from Dept. Of Family Protective Services)

Proof of U.S. Military ID
(verification of ID, Cannot be uploaded)

Anyone can attend PreK

However...



All eligible Pre-K 4 students are guaranteed a seat in HISD Pre-K. Many non-eligible and Pre-K 3 students will also receive a seat as we work to increase our capacity.

Note: Tuition will increase by \$20-30 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Pre-K Eligibility Questions

Pre-K Tuition/Non-Tuition Eligibility Questions

Answer the following questions to provide information about your students in order to determine their eligibility for the Tuition/Non-Tuition Pre-K programs selected. **Please note that all supporting documents can be uploaded starting April 1, 2024 by logging into your account and clicking on the Next Steps tab.**

Is there a language other than English spoken by the child and/or family in the home?

--None-- ▾

Is your child/family homeless? (Includes temporary/transitional housing: hotel, motel, car, homeless shelter, sharing housing of other persons due to loss of housing, or shelter not designed for living) ⓘ

--None-- ▾

Is your child the child of an active-duty member of the U.S. military - including reserve armed forces - or one who has been killed, injured, or missing in action while on active duty?

--None-- ▾

Is your child currently or in the past ever been in foster care?

--None-- ▾

Is your child the child of a person eligible for the Star of Texas Award? (Parent's name must be on the Governor's list)

--None-- ▾

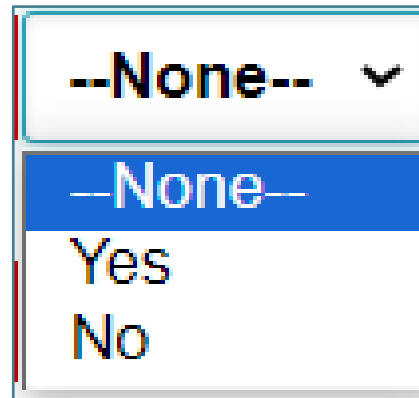
Look at the chart below and find the row that matches the number of people living in your home. Do you make less than the dollar amount on the chart?

--None-- ▾

Pre-K Eligibility Questions

Parents will receive a dropdown box with 'yes' or 'no' options. They must answer all questions before proceeding.

Under the last question, which references family income, parents will have the option to review the 2024-2025 Income Chart.



--None-- ▾
--None--
Yes
No

Household Size	Total Income				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
No. of Household Members					
2	\$37,814	\$3,152	\$1,576	\$1,455	\$728
3	\$47,767	\$3,981	\$1,991	\$1,838	\$919
4	\$57,720	\$4,810	\$2,405	\$2,220	\$1,110
5	\$67,673	\$5,640	\$2,820	\$2,603	\$1,302
6	\$77,626	\$6,469	\$3,235	\$2,986	\$1,493
7	\$87,579	\$7,299	\$3,650	\$3,369	\$1,685
8	\$97,532	\$8,128	\$4,064	\$3,752	\$1,876
For each additional family member, add:	+\$9,953	+\$830	+\$415	+\$383	+\$192

Pre-K Eligibility Questions

If the parent selects **English**:
All English-only and magnet program options will appear on the School Selection page.

Home Language Screener

What language of instruction do you prefer?

English ▾

The options are English, Spanish or other instruction.

If the parent selects **Spanish**:
All Spanish only, Dual Language (2-way), and Magnet programs will appear on School Selection page

Home Language Screener

What language of instruction do you prefer?

Spanish ▾

Back

Continue



Pre-K Student Demographic Information

Additional Student Information

If your student is new to HISD, please complete the information below. The information asked is only used to ensure accurate eligibility for School Choice programs. If your student is a current HISD student and the information is incorrect, please contact your student's campus of enrollment.

Student Demographic Information

Student Ethnicity

--None--



Student Race

--None--



Student has an IEP or IFSP

--None--



Student has 504 Plan

--None--



Where do I Apply?



Helpful Websites

Researching a School

[www.houstonisd.org/
Findaschool](http://www.houstonisd.org/Findaschool)

School Choice Application

[www.houstonisd.org/
schoolchoice](http://www.houstonisd.org/schoolchoice)



Creating an Account



Creating an Account



Creating an Account

Select Language ▼



Apply for School Year 2025 - 2026

New to HISD?
Start your application by entering your email.

Already enrolled at HISD?
Enter the email we have for you to LOGIN.

Email

Continue

Desktop and mobile
versions of the site
operate almost identically.



Apply for School Year 2025 - 2026

New to HISD?
Start your application by entering your email.

Already enrolled at HISD?
Enter the email we have for you to LOGIN.

Email

Continue

Creating an Account

Parents can change the application's language via the dropdown menu.

Select Language ▼

All fields with red tabs must be completed before proceeding.

Create Account

Please create your account by filling out the information below.

First Name

Last Name

Email

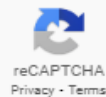
cmiano+12345678@salesforce.com

Primary Phone Number

I certify that I am the guardian of the children I add to this account and give permission to store demographic and information on my student(s).

☐ I agree to the Terms of Service.

☐ I'm not a robot



Back

Continue

Email prefilled from the previous screen

Creating an Account

The screenshot displays the 'Create Account' page for HISD School Choice. A modal dialog titled 'Confirm Account' is centered on the screen. The dialog contains the following text: 'An account was found with the same name and phone number but a different email address. Please use the *Try Another Email* option below if you have another email address. Otherwise, click *Continue* to create a new account using the email previously entered.' Below the text are two buttons: 'Try Another Email' and 'Continue'. In the background, the 'Create Account' form is visible, showing a 'Select Language' dropdown and a phone number field containing 'cmiano+12345678@salesforce.com'. A yellow callout box with a pointer to the 'Try Another Email' button contains the text: 'If you try to register with the same name and phone number as another account, you'll be prompted to check if you used a different email before.'

HISD | School Choice
HUNDREDS OF OPTIONS. ONE ACCOUNT.

Create Account

Select Language ▼

An account was found with the same name and phone number but a different email address. Please use the *Try Another Email* option below if you have another email address. Otherwise, click *Continue* to create a new account using the email previously entered.

Try Another Email Continue

cmiano+12345678@salesforce.com

dd to this account and give permission to store demographic and personally identifiable

If you try to register with the same name and phone number as another account, you'll be prompted to check if you used a different email before.

Creating an Account

Welcome to HISD School Choice

Please enter your password to log in.



Success:

Your account has been created successfully. You should receive an email shortly with your username. Please check your spam folder.

Email

Password

Continue

Back

[Forgot your password?](#)

After filling out the account information, you'll receive a success message. Look for a confirmation email in your inbox to complete the account setup.

Be sure to check your spam and junk folders as well.



HISD School Choice noreplyschoolchoice@houstonisd.org



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Thank you for creating your Choose HISD Account!! This is your user name guardianemail@parent.com. To set your password for the first time, click [here](#) or copy and paste the URL below into your browser.

You will need to use this account information to log into the Choose HISD system and submit your application to a school of your choice including magnet programs. Please store this information in a safe location. We ask that you do not share your account information with your student to avoid decision changes without your knowledge.

After logging in, you can complete your family profile and submit applications for your students. Please be sure to remember the password you choose as you will need it for future logins. You can return to your account at any time to update your application at any point in the submission process.


To learn more about HISD schools and the Choose HISD timeline click [here](#).

Best Regards,
HISD Office of School Choice

https://applyhisd-hisduat.sandbox.my.site.com/Apply/login?c=oo2rghRrIWB8iiMw2tSx5Gr0uIZabp.ySsRY0FAM.890HvtK.E33SEILGRJIGD5BYOA7fcshLEhJQ1gcue837TgSatPPF3RznmwGWb6vMglQ6LLv1IQWlrmSQxQh6YSgY8wVKYW.r2UPtab3sqSB3lQt0OAhlYnp2wtF1WRq3KeDUP1FcrvYlQrF_gBBdd3ipmryeJHz97EzrmvbPy2sLwDu1lIMWw%3D%3D

Creating an Account



 Select Language ▼

Please set or update your password below.

New Password

Verify New Password

Please note that you cannot reuse old passwords. Passwords must be at least 8 characters long and must contain at least one letter and one number.

Continue

Missed Email Verification Consequences

Missed alerts and reminders

Inability to log into account

Password reset loop



Selecting Schools



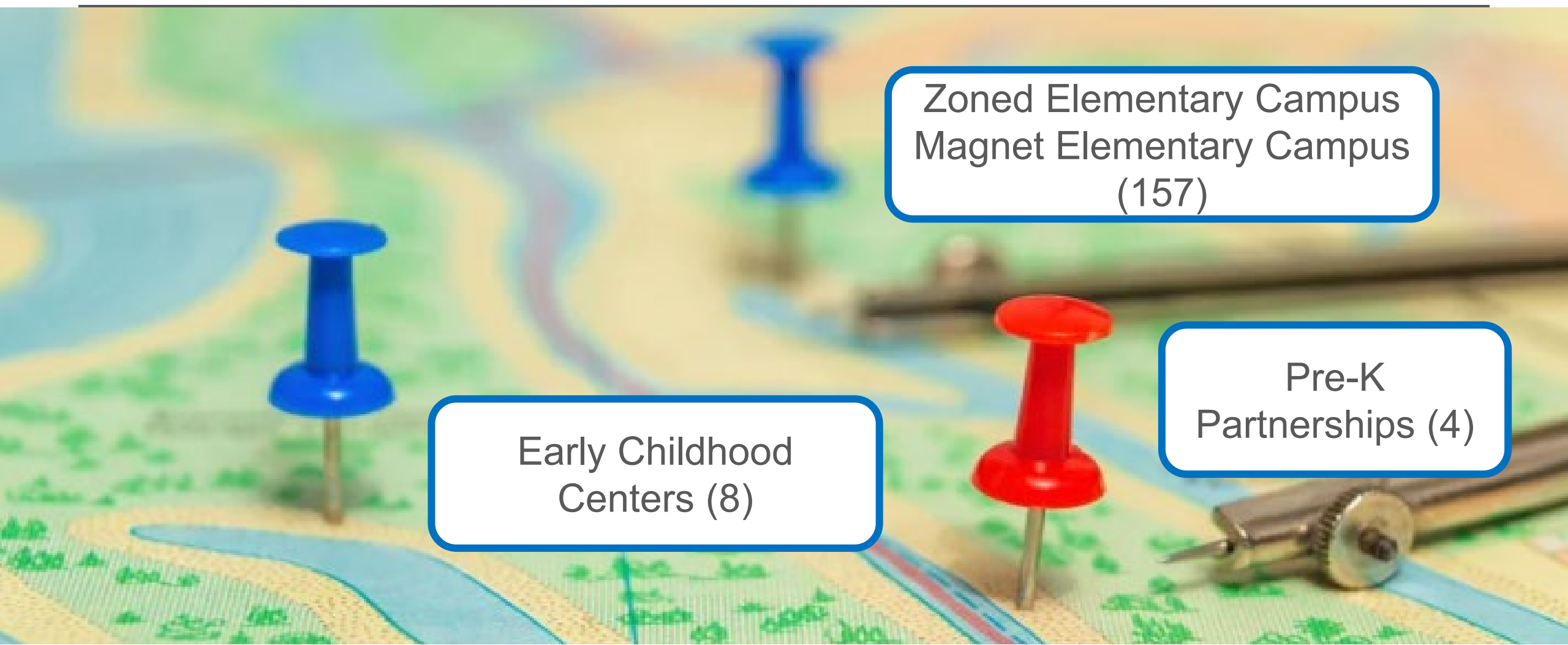
Schools Offering Pre-K Programs

HISD has 8 early childhood centers and 157 elementary schools with **full-day** PreK for 3- & 4-year-olds.



Bilingual	English as a Second Language (ESL)
Dual Language (Spanish, Arabic, French, Mandarin)	Traditional English
Montessori	Special Education (ECSE)

We offer Pre-K in three types of locations



Zoned Elementary Campus
Magnet Elementary Campus
(157)

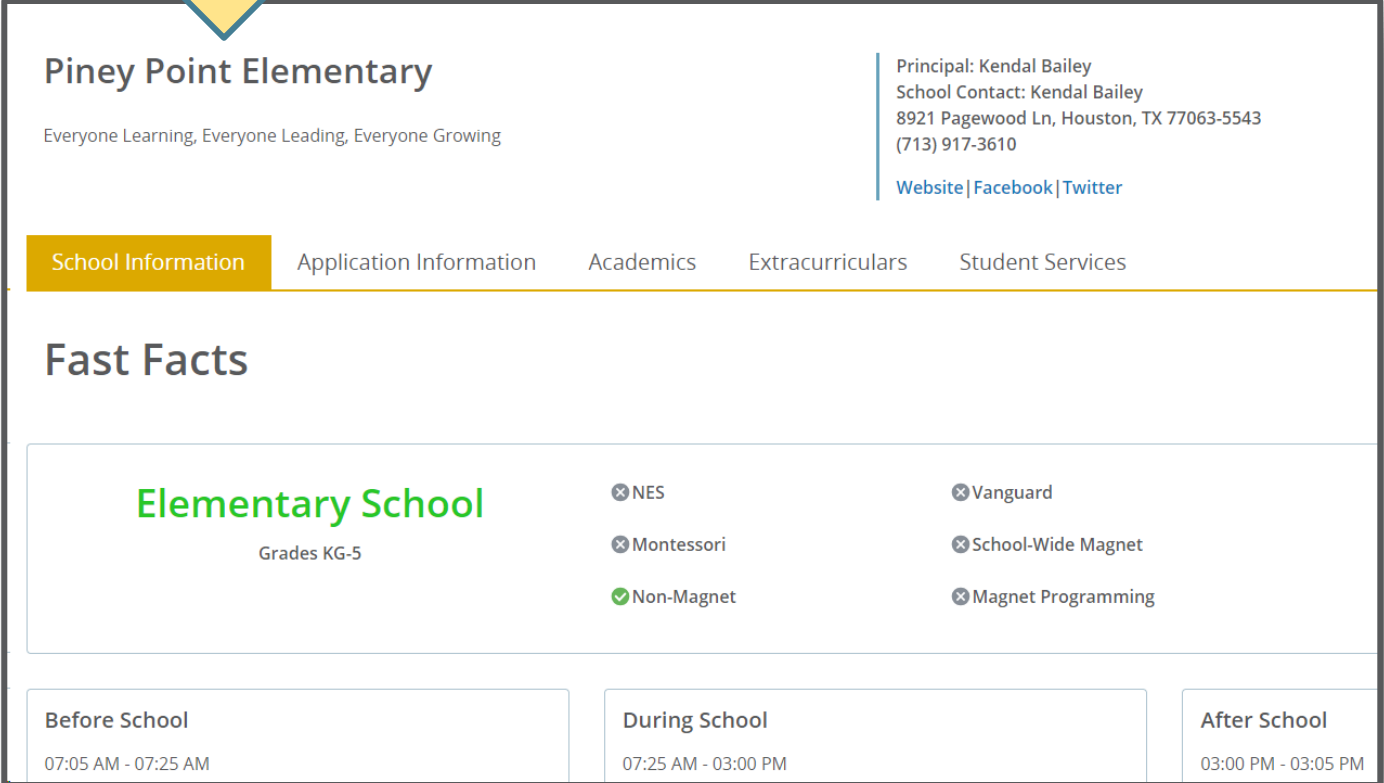
Early Childhood
Centers (8)

Pre-K
Partnerships (4)

Where do I learn more?

<https://www.houstonisd.org/findaschool>

Our School Finder is a one-stop shop for parents to access information about each school.



Piney Point Elementary
Everyone Learning, Everyone Leading, Everyone Growing

Principal: Kendal Bailey
School Contact: Kendal Bailey
8921 Pagewood Ln, Houston, TX 77063-5543
(713) 917-3610
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

School Information | Application Information | Academics | Extracurriculars | Student Services

Fast Facts

Elementary School Grades KG-5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vanguard
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montessori	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School-Wide Magnet
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Magnet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Magnet Programming

Before School 07:05 AM - 07:25 AM	During School 07:25 AM - 03:00 PM	After School 03:00 PM - 03:05 PM
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School Selection Page


Schools in the list are broken down by school and program. As programs are selected, they are shown in the list of Schools Selected. The last column provides the distance from the parent's address to the school.








Please see list below.



Search by School Name

Filter schools

 - You are zoned to Lantrip Elementary. We anticipate not needing a lottery to confirm your enrollment.

Select	School Name	Info	Grades	Program Type	Dist
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Lantrip Elementary PK		PreK3-PreK4	General PK Enrollment	0.02 mi
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cage ES PK		PreK3-PreK4	General Education	0.39 mi
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cage ES PK - Offsite Partnership Program		PreK3-PreK4	General Education	0.39 mi
<input type="checkbox"/>	Laurenzo Early Childhood CTR PK		PreK3-PreK4	General PK Enrollment	1.02 mi
<input type="checkbox"/>	Henderson J P Elementary PK		PreK3-PreK4	General PK Enrollment	1.48 mi
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tijerina Elementary School PK		PreK3-PreK4	General PK Enrollment	1.48 mi

Zoning Experiences

Families will be informed in ChooseHISD Application that they fall into one of 4 experiences below based on their address:

1

You are zoned to X. **We anticipate not needing a lottery to confirm your enrollment.**

You may rank choices other than your zoned school as you desire but may not need to.



2

You are zoned to X. At this time, we believe X school will not have enough seats for all the zoned students who apply. **We anticipate needing a lottery to confirm your enrollment.**

We recommend that you rank choices other than your zoned school.



3

You are zoned to X. At this time, we believe X school will not have enough seats for all the zoned students who apply. **We anticipate needing a lottery to confirm your enrollment.**

We also have an **off-site partnership** in your zone that you may select in your rankings. We recommend that you rank choices other than your zoned school.



4

You're zoned to X elementary, which **does not yet offer Pre-K.**

You will receive priority in the lottery at all other programs. We recommend that you rank up to 10 choices.



FOR ALL: We also offer non-zoned ECCs as high-quality options. Your closest ECC is...

Key Symbols and Terms



We anticipate not needing a lottery to confirm your enrollment.



We anticipate needing a lottery to confirm enrollment.



Zoned campus is linked to a partnership.



You're zoned to School X, which does not yet offer PreK. You will receive priority in the lottery.

Ranking

Rank Your Selections

Please rank your selected schools/programs in order of preference. (Rank 1 being the highest preference)

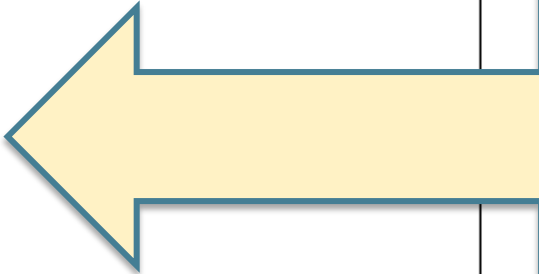
If the schools/programs are in the correct order of preference, click continue to confirm your selection.

Current Ranking Order:

1. Lorenzo Early Childhood CTR PK
2. Tijerina Elementary School PK
3. Lantrip Elementary PK
4. Carrillo ES PK
5. DeZavala Elementary PK
6. Gallegos Elementary PK
7. Cage ES PK - Offsite Partnership Program

Undo

Reorder



The ranking page allows you to rank the school selections made in the previous step.
Undo - removes the last school selected.
Reorder - clears the list

Ranking

Rank Your Selections

Please rank your selected schools/programs in order of preference. (Rank 1 being the highest preference)

If the schools/programs are in the correct order of preference, click continue to confirm your selection.

Current Ranking Order:

1. MacGregor Elementary: Music & Science - General Music
2. Lockhart Elementary: STEM
3. River Oaks Elementary School: Vanguard (Gifted and Talented)
4. MacGregor Elementary: Music & Science - Band
5. MacGregor Elementary

Undo

Reorder

Back

Continue

The continue button becomes available after all the schools have been ranked.

Timeline



2025-2026 Pre-K Application Timeline

Milestone	Date
Phase 1 Pre-K Application Opens	1/22
Phase 1 Pre-K Application Closes	3/17
Pre-K 4 Potentially Eligible Families are notified of their child's lottery results	3/28
Phase 2 Pre-K Application Opens	3/28
Families may begin to upload eligibility documents	4/1
Last day for families to accept lottery offers	4/17
Phase 2 Pre-K Application Closes	5/5
Families are notified of their child's lottery results (Tuition PK4 & all PK3)	5/16
Families must accept their child's placement	5 days after offer

Assistance



Pre-K Festivals: 9:00-12:00 PM

Purpose of Pre- K festivals: To provide parents with assistance in completing the Pre-K application. Schedule appointments with parents to come to campus to submit required documents beginning April 1.

Date & Time	Locations	
February 1, 2025	Waltrip High School 1900 W. 34 th St. Houston, TX 77018	Sam Houston MSTC 9400 Irvington Blvd. Houston, TX 77076
February 8, 2025	Heights High School 413 E. 13 th St. Houston, TX 77008	Sharpstown International School 8330 Triola Lane Houston, TX 77036
February 22, 2025	Austin High School 1700 Dumble St. Houston, TX 77023	Sharpstown International School 8330 Triola Lane Houston, TX 77036
March 1, 2025	Hartman Middle School 7111 Westover Houston, TX 77087	Lawson Middle School 14000 Stancliff St. Houston, TX 77045

Helpful Websites

**Researching a
School**

www.houstonisd.org/findaschool

**School Choice
Application**

www.houstonisd.org/schoolchoice

**Early Childhood
Department**

www.houstonisd.org/prek

How can parents get help?



Pre-K Eligibility Support:

Email Pre-K department at EarlyChildhood@houstonisd.org
713-556-4393

Include as many details as necessary such as name, school, PK3 or PK4.

Application Support:

Email School Choice at SchoolChoice@houstonisd.org
713-556-6734

Include as many details as necessary such as name, school, PK3 or PK4 and application question.

Do you have any questions?



If you remember nothing else...

January 22
Application Opens

You must submit a School Choice application for all Pre-K programs including your zoned school

March 17
Application Closes

You cannot enroll directly for Pre-K at any school

Apr. 1-17
Parent upload documents for eligibility checks

You must pick zone Pre-K school as #1 to receive priority and seat there



Note: PreK 3 students in HISD will automatically move up to PreK 4 at the same school. Application needed only if switching schools.

Your Feedback Matters

Parent Information Session
Feedback



<https://bit.ly/ParentSessionFeedback>



Thank you!

