

LIFE / FAMILY & PARENTING / SINGLE PARENTING

Dallas families can now sign up for free preschool & pre-K during Round-Up Week

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Dallas families are encouraged to sign up for pre-Kindergarten during Round-Up Week with The Dallas Independent School District (ISD). DISD will host its second district-wide **Pre-kindergarten Round-Up Week** from April 6-10 to encourage eligible families to register for the district's free preschool program. Throughout the week, families may sign up for pre-K at any **Dallas ISD elementary school** during specified hours.

The benefits of a preschool education

As many single or working parent knows the high cost of childcare is a huge barrier to many parents going back to work. Also many studies have highlighted the benefits to kids in the long run when they attend preschool education programs. According to the **National Institute for Early Education Research** preschools benefit kids by producing long-term improvements in school success, including higher achievement test scores, lower rates of grade repetition and special education, and higher educational attainment. There are also links to a reduction in later delinquency and crime in childhood and adulthood.

In DISD an estimated 37,300 eligible children did not take advantage of the free early education programs, which is designed to support students' intellectual, physiological, social and emotional development with a focus on language and literacy skills.

Research shows 85 percent of brain development occurs by age of five, and early childhood educational programs have a tremendous impact on a child's future. At-risk children who don't receive a high-quality pre-school education are 60 percent less likely to attend college. They also have higher dropout and teen pregnancy rates.

Alan Cohen, Dallas ISD's Executive Director of [Early Childhood Education](#), stressed these statistics as nearly 40 percent of [Dallas children](#) are growing up in poverty, the highest rate for a city with at least one million residents.

“Our goal is to have every child in the DISD area register for pre-K so we can positively influence their lives at this crucial window of opportunity. The long-term impacts are startling - overall improved school performance and higher math and language abilities, as well as significant emotional and social advantages,” stated Cohen.

Children who live in Dallas ISD and will be four years old by Sept. 1, 2015 may be eligible for the pre-K program if they are:

- › Unable to speak and understand the English language;
- › A member of a low-income family (eligible to participate in free/reduced lunch program);
- › A child of a U.S. armed forces member
- › A child is or has ever been in state foster care; or
- › Currently homeless.

For more information on the registration process, locations and documentation needed to confirm eligibility, contact your nearest Dallas ISD elementary school or visit dallasisd.org/prek.

The Dallas Independent School District is continually preparing its more than 160,000 students for college or a career. Through our Destination 2020 effort, we'll invest in our people, focus more on the classroom, strengthen our systems and engage the community. To learn more, visit dallasisd.org.

SUGGESTED LINKS

- › [Dallas Independent School District 10th and 11th graders college road trip tour](#)
- › [Early childhood programs prove to be an asset](#)
- › [Preschoolers: Move to Learn!](#)



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