



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: May 8, 2025

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Pre-K 4 SA

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Dr. Sarah Baray

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing on the Pre-K 4 SA FY 2026 Proposed Annual Operating Budget and personnel complement.

SUMMARY:

Staff will present a program overview and briefing on the Pre-K 4 SA FY 2026 Proposed Annual Operating Budget and personnel complement based on goals set by the Pre-K 4 SA Board of Directors on April 8, 2025.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In August 2012, City Council authorized the creation of the San Antonio Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation for the purposes of increasing literacy through high quality early childhood education in accordance with Chapter 379A of the Texas Local Government Code, known as the Better Jobs Act. In November 2012, San Antonio voters approved a 1/8th of a cent sales tax for the benefit of the Corporation to fund the Pre-K 4 SA Initiative for an initial eight-year period. In November 2020, voters approved a reauthorization of the 1/8th of a cent sales tax for an additional eight-year period, funding the program through 2029. Pre-K 4 SA is governed by an eleven-member Board of Directors appointed by the Mayor and City Council serving two-year staggered terms. The program does not receive any revenue from the City's

General Fund.

Pre-K 4 SA is a comprehensive initiative designed to improve access to high-quality early childhood learning through: 1) model Education Centers serving 2,000 children annually; 2) family outreach and engagement; 3) professional learning for early childhood educators; and 4) grants to improve the quality of early learning and care in public, private, and parochial schools and child care providers across San Antonio.

Pre-K 4 SA Education Centers meet national standards for high quality early childhood education and serve as demonstration sites to assist other early learning programs to improve quality. The Education Centers also serve as incubators of innovation to test new ideas that are shared with early learning programs across the city. The four Education Centers will serve a total of 2,000 children during the 2025-26 school year.

Independent evaluations demonstrate that San Antonio’s investment in high quality early learning has long-lasting benefits. The program increases kindergarten readiness and leads to higher attendance rates, decreased need for special education services, and better 3rd grade math and reading scores. A 2019 study estimated that Pre-K 4 SA returned \$59 million dollars in benefits to San Antonio in the first eight years of operation (Source: 2019 cost-benefit study, Westat, University of Pennsylvania, and Teacher’s College at Columbia University).

ISSUE:

City staff will provide City Council with a program overview the Proposed Pre-K 4 SA FY 2026 Annual Operating Budget based on goals set by the Pre-K 4 SA Board of Directors on April 8, 2025. The Board of Directors Bylaws, approved by City Council, require an Annual Budget to be adopted by the Board and approved by City Council.

The four Pre-K 4 SA Education Centers, located in the North, South, East and West quadrants of San Antonio, serve 500 students each in a full-day program with free extended hour learning for working families. Pre-K 4 SA also operates the Gardendale Early Learning Program in partnership with Edgewood ISD. Gardendale serves approximately 275 children in pre-k through second grade. Pre-K 4 SA classrooms are staffed with certified teachers and credentialed assistant teachers who have specialized training in early education.

Below is an overview of Pre-K 4 SA’s Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2026 to include major program areas:

Operating Expenses and Transfers	Proposed FY 2026 Budget
Pre-K 4 SA Model Schools	\$29,760,447
Operational Systems & Services	3,260,392
Facilities, Leases & Maintenance	6,307,069
Grants & Professional Learning	4,960,073
Innovation Sites	2,302,101
Program Evaluation & Research	509,286

Outreach, Engagement & Research	2,850,931
Sales Tax Collection Fee	1,035,346
Administration	1,417,166
South Building Project	4,250,000
City Assessments	2,470,737
Transfer to Other Funds	1,398,696
Total Budget	\$60,522,245

The Pre-K 4 SA FY 2026 Proposed Annual Operating Budget reflects a 7.1% decrease from the FY 2025 Adopted Annual Operating Budget. Appropriations are required for the hiring Model School staff, food service, and other expenses required for the daily operations of each Model School.

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

This briefing is for informational purposes only. The FY 2026 Proposed Budget is scheduled to be adopted by the Pre-K 4 SA Board of Directors on May 21, 2025, with City Council consideration for approval on May 29, 2025, as required by the Better Jobs Act and the Pre-K 4 SA bylaws. The Pre-K 4 SA Proposed Annual Operating Budget is \$60,522,245.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff does not recommend any action.