Pre-Kindergarten Program Requirements

Northside offers a half-day pre-kindergarten program. School hours for the morning session are 7:45-11:20 and 11:20-2:55 for the afternoon session.

Eligibility Requirements:

In order to be eligible for the pre-kindergarten program, state law (Texas Education Code 29.153) requires that children must be 4 years old on or before September 1st and (one of the following):

1) unable to speak or comprehend the English language (speak another language other than English); OR

2) educationally disadvantaged (eligible to participate in the National Free/Reduced Lunch Program); OR

3) homeless, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 1143a, 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 of the child; OR

4) the child of an active-duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserved component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority; OR

5) the child of an active-duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserved component of the armed forces, who was injured, or killed while serving on active duty; OR

6) have been in the conservatorship (foster care) of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) following an adversary hearing as provided by Section 262.201, Family Code.

7) Be the child of a person eligible for the Star of Texas Awards as: a peace officer under Section 3106.002, Government Code; a firefighter under Section 3106.003, Government Code; or an emergency medical first responder under Section 3106.004, Government Code.

Documentation Required:

1) birth certificate – original copy
2) immunization record – updated record
3) proof of residence – current electric bill, telephone bill, cable bill, apartment lease, “closing papers” from a home purchase. · If a family is living with another family or unable to meet district requirements for Proof of Residence, a notarized Affidavit of Residence must be completed. This requires both parent/guardian of child and the resident to appear before the school/district, present photo IDs and copy of the
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resident’s proof of residence as evidenced by a current utility bill (as stated above).
4) social security card (optional) – of child being registered
5) proof of (gross) income – current paycheck stubs (4 if paid weekly, 2 if paid twice a month and 1 if paid once a month). Families receiving SNAP must bring the current NOTICE OF ELIGIBILITY; families on TANF must bring the BENEFIT LETTER.
6) letter from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) stating the child is able to participate in the pre-kindergarten program (this letter is sent to parents who have adopted a foster child, and is printed on DFPS letterhead.)

Additional Documentation for Military Personnel:
In addition to providing the “Documentation Required” listed above, the following documents are also needed for registration:

1) Documentation that a district employee verified the student’s Department of Defense (DoD) photo identification for children of active duty members. The district will not make a copy of the identification OR

2) If the student has not been issued such an ID, then documentation must be on file that a district employee verified the military member’s DoD photo identification (or other DoD-issued documentation indicating that the person is an active-duty member of the military) and verified documentation showing that the student is a child of the military member; OR

3) A copy of the “Statement of Service” from the Installation Adjutant General (AG) Director of Human Resources for children of active members or mobilized reservists or member of the Texas National Guard. This office would use the military personnel systems and documentation to verify that the service member is on active duty in Texas or a Texas mobilized reservist. For Texas National Guard members (Army or Air Guard), the Texas National Guard’s office of the Adjutant General (TAG) may provide documentation or an official letter from a commander (at or above the Lieutenant Colonel or, for the Navy at the Commander level) confirming active/mobilized status may be accepted; a letter from the Veteran Affairs (VA) office stating there was a service connected disability; OR

4) A copy of the death certificate using the Service appropriate Department of Defense form, or a Department of Defense form that indicates death as the reason for the separation from the service for children of service members who died or were killed. If the Department of Defense form is not available, the family would ask the Casualty Assistance Office of the closet Casualty Area Command (In Texas) to provide a memorandum signed by the Casualty Office stating the service member was killed in action or died while serving; OR

5) A copy or the Purple Heart orders or citation for children of service members or mobilized reservists/guardsmen who were wounded or injured in combat; OR
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6) A copy of the Line of Duty Determination documentation for children of service members or mobilized reservists who were injured while serving on active duty but were NOT wounded or injured in combat. If such documentation is not available, a copy of an official letter from a commander (at or above the Lieutenant Colonel or, for the Navy at the Commander level) stating the service member was wounded or injured while on active duty is acceptable; a letter from the Veteran Affairs (VA) office stating there was a service connected disability; OR

7) A copy of appropriate documentation for children of service members who are “Missing in Action” (MIA). Any one of the three acceptable pieces of documentation will suffice for all services: (1) a copy of the transmittal letter from the Service Secretary stating the service member is in a missing status; 2) a copy of the Department of Defense Form 2811, “Report of Proceedings by Initial/Subsequent Board of Injury or Further Review Board;” 3) a copy of the Department of Defense Form 2812, “Commander’s Preliminary Assessment and Recommendations Regarding Missing Person.”

Child of Star of Texas Award Recipient

The office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division honors recipients annually in September. The resolution (certificate) awarded to an individual serves as proof of eligibility to enroll these children in free prekindergarten if they are age-eligible. A list of past honorees may be viewed on the Criminal Justice Division-Past Honorees webpage. If an individual has a prekindergarten-aged child and has been nominated, but not notified as an honoree prior to the current school year, an individual may make a request to the Office of Early Childhood Education to make an eligibility determination based on the nomination submitted for review to the Criminal Justice Division.