



Early Childhood Update 2025 - 2026

**Meeting the Needs of our
Youngest Panthers in MISD!**



“The highest return on investment in human capital is from investing in the youngest children..”

James Heckman

TEA Eligibility Qualifications for PreK

Child must be at least three years of age or four years of age on or before September 1 and must meet one of the following criteria:



Educationally disadvantaged



Foster Care



Limited English proficiency



Military



Homeless



Star of Texas Award



Children of Classroom Teachers

Employee Children

- Based on TEA eligibility change, children of classroom teachers now qualify for PreK.
- Other employee children may participate in full day PreK-3 or PreK-4 for a \$300 per month fee. (Sept-June)



MISD Early Childhood Programs 2025 - 2026

PreK-3 classrooms at Chapel Park, Hewitt, South Bosque, and Spring Valley
(88 students - 4 classrooms)

PreK-4 classrooms on all elementary campuses
(224 students - 11 classrooms)



2025 - 2026 PreK-3 Campus Enrollment

	Qualifier	Employee	Total
Chapel Park	22	2	24
Hewitt	22	0	22
South Bosque	21	2	23
Spring Valley	17	2	19

2025 - 2026 PreK-4 Campus Enrollment

	Qualifier	Employee	Total
Castleman Creek	42	2	44
Chapel Park	20	2	22
Hewitt	23	0	23
Park Hill	43	0	43
South Bosque	17	1	18
Speegleville	19	0	19
Spring Valley	16	2	18
Woodway	37	0	37

Early Childhood Program Highlights

- Frog Street Curriculum (PreK-3 and PreK-4) aligns with TX PreK Guidelines and district wide scope and sequence
- Content Stations and Differentiated Centers



Early Childhood Program Highlights

- Flexible Grouping
- Inclusion with Early Childhood Special Education Programs



Early Childhood Program Highlights

- Teacher professional development, coaching, and mentoring is focused on early childhood education
- Participation in Special Classes (P.E., Music, Art, Library)



Early Childhood Program Challenges

- Enrollment for eligible PreK-4 students continues throughout the school year.
- As enrollment grows, students are overflowed away from their home campus.
- Full-day funding from the state is received for PreK-4 students, but PreK-3 is funded half-day.
- It is crucial to provide a PreK-4 student to staff ratio at 22:2 (1 teacher, 1 para).
- A ratio of 24:3 is recommended for PreK-3 (1 teacher, 2 paras), creating a waitlist for PreK-3 students.



Future Plans

- The district has made the decision to discontinue the PreK-3 program. This shift allows us to reallocate campus resources with a focus on PreK-4.
- Create two sections of PreK-4 at all campuses except Spring Valley based on enrollment projections.

Important Dates

- April 1, 2026 - Enrollment opened for MISD employees for 2026 - 2027
 - Numbers to date:
 - PreK-4 - 17 students
- Saturday, April 25, 2026 - MISD will participate in the PreK Awareness Day sponsored by the Junior League of Waco
- Thursday, April 30 and Wednesday, April 6 - MISD will visit the Hewitt Public Library's Storytime to visit the community and answer any questions parents may have about our PreK Program
- Thursday, May 7, 2026 from 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. - PreK/Kindergarten Preview

