

Sec. 2.17.1. TUITION-FREE PROGRAM

Arrow Academy shall offer tuition-free prekindergarten classes if allowed by the governing charter and it identifies 15 or more eligible children who are at least four years of age. **Arrow Academy** may offer tuition-free prekindergarten classes if it identifies 15 or more eligible children who are at least three years of age.

For purposes of this policy, “child” includes a stepchild and “parent” includes a stepparent.

Sec. 2.17.1.1. Exemption

Arrow Academy may apply to the Commissioner for an exemption from the requirement that it provide a free prekindergarten program if **Arrow Academy** would be required to construct classroom facilities in order to provide the program.

Sec. 2.17.1.2. Half-Day Basis

A tuition-free prekindergarten class shall be operated on a half-day basis.

Sec. 2.17.1.3. Program Eligibility

A child is eligible for enrollment in free prekindergarten if the child is at least three years of age and:

1. Is unable to speak and comprehend the English language;
2. Is educationally disadvantaged;
3. Is homeless, as defined by federal law, 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;
4. Is the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority;
5. Is the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty;
6. Is or ever has been in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services following an adversary hearing under Family Code 262.201; or
7. Is the child of a person eligible for the Star of Texas Award as:
 - a. A peace officer under Section 3106.002, Government Code;
 - b. A firefighter under Section 3106.003, Government Code; or
 - c. An emergency medical first responder under Section 3106.004, Government Code.

A child who is eligible for enrollment under item 4 or 5 above remains eligible if the child's parent leaves the armed forces, or is no longer on active duty, after the child begins the prekindergarten class.

Sec. 2.17.1.4. Notice

The Superintendent shall develop a system to notify the population in the community with children eligible for enrollment of the availability of the program. The system must include public notices issued in English and Spanish.

Sec. 2.17.1.5. Transportation

Arrow Academy is not required to provide transportation for a prekindergarten class. If transportation is required, it is included for funding purposes as part of the regular transportation system.

Education Code 29.153, 29.1534.

Sec. 2.17.2. TUITION-SUPPORTED AND SCHOOL-FINANCED PREKINDERGARTEN

Arrow Academy may offer on a tuition basis or use school funds to provide:

1. An additional half-day of prekindergarten classes to children eligible for free prekindergarten; and
2. Half-day and full-day prekindergarten classes to children not eligible for free prekindergarten.

Arrow Academy may not adopt a tuition rate for the program that is higher than necessary to cover the added costs of providing the program, including any costs associated with collecting, reporting, and analyzing data under Education Code 2.1532(c) (regarding PEIMS data for prekindergarten programs). **Arrow Academy** must submit its proposed tuition rate to the Commissioner for approval.

Education Code 29.1531.

Sec. 2.17.3. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Arrow Academy's prekindergarten program shall be designed to develop skills necessary for success in the regular public school curriculum, including language, mathematics, and social skills.

Education Code 29.1532(a).

Sec. 2.17.4. DAILY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Students in full-day prekindergarten shall participate in moderate or vigorous daily physical activity for at least 30 minutes throughout the school year, as part of **Arrow Academy**'s physical education curriculum or through structure activity during a campus' daily recess.

To the extent practicable, students enrolled in prekindergarten on less than a full-day basis shall participate in the same type and amount of physical activity as a student enrolled in full-day prekindergarten.

If **Arrow Academy** determines that requiring moderate or vigorous daily physical activity is impractical due to scheduling concerns or other factors, **Arrow Academy** may require that students participate in moderate or vigorous physical activity for at least 135 minutes during each school week.

Arrow Academy must provide an exemption for a student who is unable to participate in the required physical activity because of illness or disability.

Education Code 28.002(1).

Sec. 2.17.5. HIGH-QUALITY PREKINDERGARTEN GRANT PROGRAM

Arrow Academy may participate in and receive funding under a grant funding program established by the Commissioner in order to implement a prekindergarten grant program under Education Code Chapter 29, Subchapter E-1. **Arrow Academy** must meet all program standards required of open-enrollment charter schools under Education Code Chapter 29, Subchapter E-1.

Education Code 29.165.

Sec. 2.17.6. PREKINDERGARTEN EXPANSION GRANT

Arrow Academy may use funds from grants administered by the Commissioner to expand an existing half-day prekindergarten program to a full-day basis or to implement a prekindergarten program on a campus that does not have a prekindergarten program. **Arrow Academy** may use funds received under this program to employ teachers and other personnel for a prekindergarten program or to acquire curriculum materials or equipment, including computers, for use in prekindergarten programs. **Arrow Academy** may use funds granted under this program in contracting with another entity, including a private entity. *Education Code 29.155.*

Sec. 2.17.7. READY TO READ GRANT

Arrow Academy may apply for a Ready to Read grant if at least 75% of the children enrolled in the prekindergarten program are low-income students, as determined by Commissioner rule.

Grants funds shall be used for:

1. Professional staff development in prereading instruction;
2. Prereading curriculum and materials;
3. Prereading skills assessment materials; and
4. Employment of prereading instructors.

Education Code 29.157.

Sec. 2.17.8. COORDINATION OF SERVICES

In a manner consistent with federal law and regulations, **Arrow Academy** shall coordinate with the TEA, the Texas Workforce Commission, and local workforce development boards regarding subsidized child-care services. *Education Code 29.158.*

Sec. 2.17.9. STATEWIDE INFORMATION AND REFERRAL NETWORK

Arrow Academy shall provide the Texas Information and Referral Network with information regarding eligibility for and availability of child-care and education services (including services provided through a prekindergarten or after-school program) for inclusion in the statewide information referral network. **Arrow Academy** shall provide the information in a form determined by the executive commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. *Gov't Code 531.0312.*

“Child care and education services” includes any government-funded child-care and education services, other than education and services provided by a school district as part of the general program of public and secondary education, designed to educate or provide care for children under the age of 13 in middle-income or low-income families. *Gov't Code 531.03131(a)(4).*

When necessary, staff of the Texas Information and Referral network shall send an electronic mail message to **Arrow Academy** containing the name of and contact information for an applicant for child-care and education services and a description of the services the applicant is seeking.

On receipt of such an electronic mail message, **Arrow Academy** shall contact the applicant to verify information regarding the applicant's eligibility for available child-care and education services and, on certifying eligibility, shall match the applicant with entities providing those services in the applicant's community, including local workforce development boards, local child-care providers, or a Head Start or Early Head Start program provider.

Arrow Academy shall cooperate with the Texas Information and Referral Network as necessary in the administration of this project.

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Gov't Code 531.0312, 531.03131.

Sec. 2.17.10. CONTRACTING WITH PRIVATE ENTITY

If **Arrow Academy** contracts with a private entity for the operation of its prekindergarten program, the program must at a minimum comply with the applicable child-care licensing standards adopted by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services under Human Resources Code 42.042. *Education Code 29.1532(b).*