Chapter 29 – Educational Programs

Subchapter E. - Kindergarten and Prekindergarten Programs

Texas Education Code – Sec. 29.153, Section 29.151

"Free Prekindergarten For Certain Children" and "Free Kindergarten"

Current Status

Under Section 29.153, prekindergarten class are offered to children who are at least 3 years of age and meet certain criteria such as (1) unable to speak and comprehend the English language; (2) educationally disadvantaged; (3) a homeless child; (4) the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States; (5) the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States; (6) been in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services or (7) the child of a person eligible for the Star of Texas Award.

To be eligible for public Kindergarten, children residing in the district must be at least 4 years of age on October 1st of the school year. Children missing the October 1st deadline are therefore delayed a school year or enrolled in other programs outside the educational realm. The Mathis Independent School District's has an economically disadvantaged population greater than 85% and is 96% Hispanic. Most of our student are low-income and dual-language speakers and most often underdeveloped in pre-literacy and pre-math skills.

Benefit of Exemption

The exemption will allow the flexibility to enroll students and immerse them in an academic, social, and emotional learning environment. A strong foundation in literacy and numeracy growth and development will combat potential gaps in achievement and accelerate their learning.

The District will develop a local readiness criterion to determine eligibility of students for the Prekindergarten and Kindergarten programs. The goal is to improve the early readiness and enrichment of our young learners at a young age through developmentally appropriate and academically rich learning environments. This will provide increased equity for every student by building a strong foundation and the provision of a quality learning environment.

Mathis ISD
Board Approved: October 15, 2018