Pre-K

Welcome to Pre-Kindergarten!

TOMBALL ISD

DESTINATION EXCELLENCE

2026-2027
School Year

DISTRICT VISION

Tomball ISD students will lead in creating the future.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Tomball ISD empowers students to become impactful, contributing citizens by providing innovative, individually rigorous and personally valuable educational experiences while partnering with the community.

Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative Model

The Pre-kindergarten Collaborative Model (PKC) is designed to serve students ages 4 through 5 in a general education setting. This is a full-day program that integrates students with significant cognitive, physical, social and/or emotional disabilities with students who do not have any disabilities. This early intervention program provides students with growth experiences in language development, motor skills, self-help skills, social development and functional pre-academics through an inclusive model.

District Goals

1. Tomball ISD will recruit, develop, and retain highly qualified staff who foster connections and are empowered to continue to seek growth opportunities and influence student success for all.
2. Tomball ISD will foster a resilient school community by intentionally equipping staff to promote healthy behaviors, decision-making and emotional growth.
3. Tomball ISD will provide a comprehensive character education framework to develop contributing citizens and leaders in the community.
4. Tomball ISD will prioritize family and community partnerships to cultivate pride and ensure a strong and stable public-school experience.
5. Tomball ISD will provide a safe, secure, and caring environment that nurtures a sense of physical and social safety for the entire school community.
6. Tomball ISD will empower students with the knowledge necessary to be responsible, ethical digital citizens, while navigating the digital world.
7. Tomball ISD will create a unified technology vision across all campuses that enriches high quality instruction.
8. Tomball ISD will provide a premier learning experience for present and future students through maximum utilization of financial and physical resources.
9. Tomball ISD will design and deliver innovative, aligned professional learning that inspires high expectations and fosters autonomy.
10. Tomball ISD will ensure relevant CCMR programming to cultivate a deeper understanding of vertical alignment for career awareness and post-secondary planning.



Pre-K

DEAR PARENTS

We want to personally welcome your child to the wonderful world of pre-kindergarten! It is a magical world filled with adventures in learning.

This booklet has been prepared to assist you in helping your child make a happy adjustment to pre-kindergarten and the many new experiences of school. We feel that this booklet can help the home and school become joint partners in better helping your child reach his/her potential. We look forward to meeting you personally and working with you during the school year.

WHY PRE-KINDERGARTEN?

The pre-kindergarten program is planned to provide fun filled activities that allow each child to experience success as well as “hands-on” activities to promote learning. Self-esteem and a love of learning are built as a child participates daily in a variety of activities.

The pre-kindergarten program is designed to allow a child to work and create independently as well as cooperate with others in a group. Relationships with other children and caring adults foster positive self-concepts. The program will provide opportunities for social and emotional development, language development, and expand physical and mental growth through the implementation of Texas guidelines for the pre-kindergarten program. The guidelines may be accessed at

http://tea.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=2147495508

Becoming literate is one of the most important milestones for young children to achieve. According to National Research Council estimates, if children receive proper exposure and systematic opportunities to develop foundational language, reading, and emergent writing skills during early childhood, as few as five percent may experience serious reading difficulties later. The literacy experiences provided during the pre-kindergarten year form the basis for learning to read. Children develop the understanding of the everyday functions of print, gain the motivation to want to learn to read and appreciation of different forms of literacy, from nonfiction and fiction books, to poems, songs, and nursery rhymes, by being read to and interacting with stories and print.



In the math domain, the Texas Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines are divided into these skill areas: counting, math symbols, adding and taking away, geometry, measurement, and classification and patterns.

PRE-K CAMPUSES

Pre-K Students from
Creekside Forest Elementary
Creekview Elementary
Decker Prairie Elementary
Rosehill Elementary
Timber Creek Elementary
Tomball Elementary

will attend
Early Excellence Academy
1440 Keefer Rd.
Tomball, TX 77375

Canyon Pointe Elementary
13002 Northpointe Blvd.
Tomball, TX 77377

Lakewood Elementary
15614 Gettysburg Dr.
Tomball, TX 77377

Wildwood Elementary
13802 Northpointe Blvd.
Tomball, TX 77377

Willow Creek Elementary
18302 N. Eldridge Pkwy
Tomball, TX 77377

Grand Oaks Elementary
20241 Cypress Roshill Rd.
Tomball, TX 77377

West Elementary
18444 Cypress Heights Dr.
Cypress, TX 77433

Cougars Wildcats Tigers

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DESTINATION EXCELLENCE

THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

A pre-kindergarten student may be enrolled in Tomball ISD during regular enrollment which begins in August prior to the beginning of the school year. After that time, a child may be enrolled at any point during the regular school year.

To be eligible for pre-kindergarten, your child must be at least 4 years of age by September 1st of the current school year and meet at least one the criteria for eligibility. Qualifying criteria will be discussed in following sections of the booklet. If your child is determined to be eligible for pre-kindergarten, all documentation for eligibility must be on file in the district.

When you are enrolling your child, you will need to provide the following documents (at a minimum).

- Certified original copy of your child's birth certificate
- Social Security Card for your child
- A current immunization health record signed by a physician or health clinic attendant
- Medical Action Plan
- Your valid state, federal, or international photo ID which contains your name and birth date
- Your proof of residency (see next section)
- Any legal paperwork regarding guardianship or custody (if applicable)

PROOF OF RESIDENCE

The proof of residence must be in the name of the person with legal responsibility for the child. In the case of the student and the parent/legal guardian residing with a district resident, an Affidavit of Residence is required. The district resident shall be required to demonstrate proof of residence. The Affidavit of Residence can be obtained through Administrative Services located at Central Office.

John P. Neubauer Administration Building (Tomball ISD Central Office)
310 S. Cherry Street
Tomball, Texas 77375



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DESTINATION EXCELLENCE

PROOF OF RESIDENCE (CONT.)

Pre-K

Any of the following documents will satisfy proof of residence requirements:

Current Resident

- Current utility bill (electric, gas or water)
- Current proper tax statement (with homestead exemption)
- Lease agreements (*lease agreements for apartments must include the name(s) of the student(s) enrolling. If the agreement is between two individuals, notarized signatures are required for both parties.*)
- House Closing Statement and Closing Papers Signature page



HOW TO QUALIFY

Completing a registration form does not automatically insure a child will be accepted in the pre-kindergarten program. A child must have reached the legal age of 4 on or before September 1st of the current school year and meet at least one of the six qualifying requirements for entrance into the program. Listed below are the requirements and any documentation required for eligibility. The district must have all documentation on file for any student eligible for the pre-kindergarten program.

1. Unable to speak and comprehend the English language

The student must be unable to speak and comprehend the English language

2. Educationally disadvantaged

The student must be eligible to participate in the national free or reduced-price lunch program Federal Guidelines are issued each year to determine income eligibility for this program. It is required that all incomes for each member of the household listed on the form are used to determine a total. Income level must be current and dated no more than 2 months before the student's enrollment.

Acceptable Documentation:

- Letter of Certification that contains eligibility number of 9 digits, beginning with 1 or 0 and certification period (dates)
- TANF
- Current pay check stubs for each wage earner within the household
- Letter from employer with employee's name, date income was received, gross wages paid and how often person is paid
- If self-employed, last year's tax return with adjusted Gross Income
- Social Security benefits, Pensions, retirement (ask for letter, check stubs, proof of payment, etc.)
- If unemployed, check stub with notice of eligibility from state and benefits
- Child Support or Alimony (court letter or agreement; copy of check/payment)

The student may automatically qualify for the lunch program because of food stamp eligibility. A copy of the letter verifying food stamp eligibility is preferred because the letter will have a name and eligibility date whereas the card does not.

3. Homelessness

The student must meet the definition of homeless as defined by 42 United States Code (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

4. Parent's Membership in the Armed Forces

The student must Be 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;

Acceptable Documentation:

- District employee verification of student's Department of Defense (DoD) photo identification for children of active duty service members. (DoD is verified but not copied)
- "Statement of Service" from the Installation Adjutant General Director of Human Resources for children of active members or mobilized Reservists or members of the Texas National Guard who are on active duty in Texas or a Texas mobilized Reserves.
- Copy of Death Certificate using the Service appropriate DoD form. If DoD form is not available a memorandum signed by the Casualty Office stating the Service member was killed in action or died while serving is accepted.
- Copy of Purple Heart order or citation for children of Service members injured in combat; or, Line of Duty Determination if Service member was injured while on active duty but not wounded in combat.
- "Missing in Action" appropriate documentation for Service members missing in action.

HOW TO QUALIFY (CONT.)

5. Member of the Armed Forces
Be 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. Foster Care
The student who is in or has ever been in he conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) following an adversary hearing held as provided by Section 262.201, Family Code;

Acceptable Documentation:

- Copy of verification letter mailed to parent or caregiver from DFPS and Child Protective Services proving conservatorship . If no letter is available, a letter addressed to the district should be provided by a DFPS specialist attesting to the student's eligibility for pre-kindergarten.

7. Star of Texas Award
Be the child of a person eligible for the Star of Texas Award as a peace officer (3106.002), firefighter (3106.003), or emergency medical first responder (3106.004).

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

DTaP (diptheria/tetanus/acellular pertussis) - 4 doses
POLIO - 3 doses
MMR (measles/mumps/rubella) - 1 dose after 1st birthday
HIB - 2 doses
HEPATITIS B - 3 doses
HEPATITIS A - 2 doses (1 dose after 1st birthday)
VARICELLA (chickenpox) - 1 dose after 1st birthday
PNEUMOCOCCAL - 2 to 3 doses depending on age when received 1st dose

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
For all vaccines herein, vaccine doses administered up to and including four (4) days before the minimum interval or age shall be counted as valid.
A complete listing of the immunizations required by all grade levels may be obtained from the Texas Department of State Health Services at 1-800-252-9152 or on their website at www.dshs.state.tx.us, or on the Tomball ISD website at www.tomballisd.net in the Health Services Department section.

EXCLUSIONS FROM COMPLIANCE
Exclusions from compliance are allowable on an individual basis for medical contraindication, religious conflicts, and active duty with the armed forces of the U.S. Children and students in these categories must submit evidence for exclusion from compliance.

MEDICAL CONTRAINDICATIONS
Medical contraindications must be signed by a physician licensed to practice in the United States. The statement should indicate that, in the physician's opinion, the required immunization would be injurious to the health and well being of the child/student or a family or household member. It should specify the specific vaccination contraindicated. Unless a lifelong condition is specified, it is valid for one year from the date signed and must be renewed annually. It does not have to be notarized.

RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS
Religious exemption is granted by an affidavit (notarized) signed by the parent/guardian, stating that the vaccination/s conflict with the tenets or practices of the religion of which they are an adherent or member. During disease outbreaks, religious exemptions may be revoked.

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DAILY SCHEDULE

Full Day Pre-Kindergarten

Tomball ISD provides full day pre-kindergarten at the following schools:

Canyon Pointe Elementary
Early Excellence Academy
Grand Oaks Elementary
Lakewood Elementary
Wildwood Elementary
Willow Creek Elementary
West Elementary



Questions should be directed to the principal's office at the school. Watch for school notices concerning early dismissal times during the regular school year.

TRANSPORTATION

The Tomball ISD Transportation Center is excited about having your child ride our school buses. School buses are the safest form of ground transportation, according to the National Safety Council.

To provide your child with the safest transportation possible the following guidelines are to be followed:

- Be at your designated bus stop at least five minutes prior to pick-up and drop off time.
- If you or your spouse cannot be at the bus stop to pick-up your child, we must have a permission form signed by the parent/guardian stating the designated person or persons you authorize to accept your child in your place. Please inform the designated person to be prepared to show his/her driver license. We **will not release** your child to anyone that is not listed on the permission document.
- If no one is at the stop to accept the student when the school bus arrives, the driver will take the student back to school where the child **must** be met in the school office.
- If you wish the driver to leave the child ***unattended*** at the bus stop, a permission form must be signed so that we can have it on file at the Transportation Center.
- If your child's bus stop is not door-side of the bus, you are encouraged to cross the street to get your child. This is for his/her safety.
- In case of an emergency or if your child needs to be dropped off at a bus stop other than his/her own, a bus pass must be issued **by the school** for each request.

ATTENDANCE

It is important to attend school regularly, because attitudes about school and a sense of responsibility are developed at an early age. Once your child enters the pre-kindergarten program, compulsory attendance guidelines apply. The compulsory attendance policy for Tomball ISD is provided on the district website and should be reviewed carefully prior to the start of school.

Encourage your child to arrive at school promptly and go directly home after school.

When your child leaves for school, be sure he/she knows how he/she will return home. Also discuss changes that may be necessary due to bad weather, etc. **Please notify the school if your child's dismissal must be modified due to a doctor's appointment, etc. Any transportation changes must be made in writing and received by the front office no later than 1 hour prior to the end of the day.**

Should it be necessary for a student to be absent, the parent or legal guardian should call and notify the attendance clerk of the student's name, grade level, and reason for absence. An attempt to contact the parent or guardian of each absence will be made by either campus attendance staff or an automated calling system. Whether or not contact is made, it is the parent's responsibility to provide a written statement or other documentation explaining the absence. The attendance policy for Tomball ISD is provided via the district website at www.tomballisd.net and should be reviewed carefully prior to the start of each school year. during regular school hours, and the student commences classes or returns to school on the same day of the appointment with a doctor's excuse, he/she will not be counted absent.







Attendance and Health

Every absence, even part of a school day, interferes with your child's progress at school. Each subject is taught in sequence which builds understanding and correct habits of study. In order to be ready for new steps in learning, your child must have mastered the previous steps and be sufficiently ready to profit from new materials. Your child should attend school each day he/she is well; however, there may be times when it is necessary for your child to be absent.

For the protection of your child and others, please do not send your child to school with fever, diarrhea or vomiting.

If a child is injured or becomes ill at school, the parents will be notified. If the parents are not available, the person designated to be called in an emergency will be contacted. Be sure to keep the school notified of any changes in telephone numbers, addresses, places of work, or emergency contacts.

All Tomball ISD policies regarding illness and medications at school are in the student handbook and posted on the district website at www.tomballisd.net under the Health Services Department.

Each child has a permanent health record. On this record pertinent health information is recorded and maintained confidentially.

Please contact the school to discuss any health problems or attendance concerns.

WHAT WILL STUDENTS DO?

Activities in the pre-kindergarten program are planned to involve the whole child in the learning process. Hands-on projects allow children to use manipulative's as they count, pattern, match, and sequence.

Storytelling props, flannel board figures, masks, and puppets allow youngsters to participate in language arts activities.

Singing games and seasonal songs develop musical ability and a sense of rhythm.

Working within a group setting gives the children an opportunity to develop cooperation and social skills.

Independent activities allow a child to learn to use time wisely and to solve problems alone.

Experimenting with different media in art projects enhances creativity.

A typical day finds the students engaged in reading or writing activities such as listening to stories, using puppets to repeat rhymes, or dictating thoughts for a teacher to record in a class book.

Math activities could involve counting and classifying objects, working on shape recognition, or matching patterns.



Social studies presents holiday customs, community helpers, self-concept activities, and other interesting themes.

Science time allows children to experiment with everyday materials and observe the seasons, weather, and practice personal health habits.

Physical activities allow students to practice fine motor skills such as lacing, tracing, and building. Gross motor skills such as jumping, hopping, balancing, tossing, and catching receive attention also.

Activities are planned so teacher directed activities and student initiated experiences complement one another. The student learns to function in a group and independently. Most importantly, pre-kindergartners have fun learning about themselves and the world around them!

WHAT WILL STUDENTS LEARN?

This first year in school can set the tone for the rest of a student's academic career. Students who learn to believe in themselves are successful lifelong learners. Our goal in pre-kindergarten is for children to love to learn!

The pre-kindergarten curriculum is designed to provide readiness activities in language arts and math and provide interesting experiences in social studies and science. Students listen to stories and books for enjoyment and to recall story details.

Repetition of finger plays and rhymes foster oral language development. Students dictate their thoughts and feelings for the teacher to record in class books and as individual "stories".

Art activities let children express their creativity while developing fine motor skills.

Counting, classifying, and matching challenges children as they use manipulative's to develop math skills.

Youngsters learn about themselves and the world around them during social studies and science times.

Singing songs and playing rhythm instruments provides an enjoyable way for children to express themselves.

Group games and physical activities develop cooperation and gross motor skills. Center time allows children to make choices and to practice skills presented in other settings. Daily activities are balanced so the social, emotional, mental, and physical needs of the children are met.



Some of the units studied in the pre-kindergarten program include:

1. **Places and people in my school**
2. **Understanding my community**
3. **Investigating change in the environment**
4. **Comparing cultural influences**
5. **Animals are important**
6. **Earth and Space**
7. **Saying goodbye**

Holiday units and seasonal activities are taught at appropriate times during the year. Topics are presented with much student involvement and in an enjoyable format.

Children learn that school is a great place where they are accepted and successful.

HOME & SCHOOL COOPERATION

Cooperation between parents and teachers is very important during your child's first year at school. Because we are partners in the education of your child, communication between parents and school helps assure a positive experience for the student. Any concerns that may arise should be brought to the teacher's attention. If your child develops or already has a particular fear or dislike, it may be overcome more easily if both the parents and the school are informed and work together cooperatively. If a problem arises at school, you will be notified and given the opportunity to discuss this with your child's teacher.

If there is a change in routine at home or in the method of transportation, please send a note to the teacher to prevent confusion for both the child and teacher.

If your child does not ride to school on a bus, arrival should not be more than 15 minutes before the class starts to assure that supervision is available.

How Parents Can Help



PRIOR TO SCHOOL

1. Encourage your child to look forward to pre-kindergarten as a happy, friendly place.
2. Visit the school and let your child see the classrooms and meet teachers. Walk around the school with your child so the setting will be somewhat familiar to him/her.
3. Make sure labels are on all outer personal belongings (jackets, sweaters, books, Show and Tell objects).
4. Provide opportunities to play and to share with other children and to make friends.

ONCE SCHOOL BEGINS

1. Read to your child. He/she gets his/her values from you. If you think books are interesting and important, so will your child.
2. Make reading together an enjoyable time, not a chore. Have your child sit near you. The closeness, touching, and affection are important to your child.
3. Provide a special place to display school papers and projects.
4. Give your child time to tell you about his/her day at school and to share their experiences.
5. Praise your child for his/her efforts and provide encouragement for attempting new tasks.
6. Talk and listen to your child. Be patient and understanding with your child's curiosity.
7. Help your child learn to be independent about appropriate toilet habits.
8. Please have your child dress in clothing that is comfortable for play and can be easily fastened (buttoned, zipped, etc.) the child. Being able to button a paint shirt or to zip his/her own pants is great for self-esteem in a young child.
9. Give your child duties around the house to develop self-confidence and responsibility. (Putting away toys, taking out the trash, placing silverware on the table.)
10. Establish a regular pattern for sleep (10 hours), meals (keep snacks to a minimum), and play.

Remember, a child's parents are his/her most important teachers.