

Prekindergarten Eligibility – Military or Armed Services

Overview

Statute: [TEC, §29.153\(b\)\(4\)](#)

Resources: [Student Attendance and Accounting Handbook \(SAAH\), Section 7.2.5](#)

Contact: District or Campus Pre-k Enrollment Specialist

The following definitions apply when determining a student’s pre-k eligibility based on the membership of a parent in the armed forces:

Those who qualify as a member of the armed forces include:

- active duty uniformed members (parents or official guardians) of the US Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard who have eligible children residing in Texas
- activated or mobilized uniformed members of the Texas National Guard (army or air guard), or activated or mobilized members of the reserve components of the US Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard who have eligible children residing in Texas
- uniformed service members who are missing in action (MIA)

Also, for purposes of eligibility for enrollment in a pre-k program, a child is considered to be the child of a member of the armed forces if either of the following conditions is met:

- the child is the biological or adopted child of the member of the armed forces
- the child is a stepchild of the member of the armed forces (whether or not the child resides in the same household as the stepparent)

Documentation

If the student is eligible for pre-k because the student is the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserved component of the armed forces, who is on **active duty or has been injured or killed while on active duty**, one of the following forms of documentation must be on file:

- **Documentation that a district employee verified the student’s US DoD (Department of Defense) photo identification for children of active duty service members.** The documentation must include the printed name and signature of the person who verified the identification and the date that it was verified.
 - 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. The documentation to be kept on file must include the printed name and signature of the person who verified the DoD and other documentation, the date that it was verified, and a photocopy of the documentation showing that the student is a child of the military member.

Important: Your district should **not** make a copy of DoD identification.

- **A statement of service from the installation adjutant general director of human resources for children of active members, mobilized reservists, or members of the Texas National Guard.** This office uses military personnel systems and documentation to verify that the service member is in fact 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 may provide documentation or an

Prekindergarten Eligibility – Military or Armed Services

official letter from a commander (at or above the lieutenant colonel or, for the navy, at the commander level) confirming active or mobilized status, which is acceptable documentation.

- **For children of service members who died or were killed, a copy of the death certificate using the service-appropriate DoD form or a DoD form that indicates death as the reason for the separation from service.**
 - If the DoD form is not available, the family can ask the casualty assistance office of the closest casualty area command in Texas to provide a memorandum signed by the casualty office stating that the service member was killed in action or died while serving.
- **A copy of Purple Heart orders or citation for children of service members, mobilized reservists, or guardsmen who were wounded or injured in combat.**
- **A copy of the line of duty determination documentation for children of service members, mobilized reservists, or guardsmen who were injured while serving active duty but were not wounded or injured in combat.**
 - If this 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) that states that the service member was wounded or injured while on active duty is acceptable.
 - A copy of a letter from the US Department of Veterans Affairs indicating that the service member has a service-connected disability and is eligible for disability compensation is also acceptable.
- **Documentation that a service member is MIA for children of service members who are MIA.**

Key Points

- “Parent” includes stepparent. A stepchild is eligible for Pre-k enrollment whether or not the child resides in the same household as the stepparent.
- If a student qualifies for pre-k on the basis of being a 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, the student remains eligible for enrollment if the child’s parent leaves the armed forces or is no longer on active duty after the student begins a pre-k class.
- Many districts preregister pre-k students to determine and plan for the size of the next school year’s pre-k program. Districts may begin this process on or after April 1 of each year. Once a child is determined to be eligible, they remain eligible without reverification prior to the next school year.