



Plano Independent School District

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE
DEDICATED TO CARING
POWERED BY LEARNING
PLANO ISD PROUD.



PLANO ISD VISION

KINDERGARTEN PARENT HANDBOOK

PHILOSOPHY

The Plano Independent School District kindergarten program follows the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, which is uniquely adapted to meet the needs and interests of the kindergarten child. The kindergarten program is designed to promote a child in all developmental areas: cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and academic. The program reflects the belief that children are active learners and encourages students to build meaning and understanding through full participation in their learning environments. This child-centered program combines high expectations for each child with respect for individual development and establishes a foundation for lifelong learning.

STUDENT ADMISSION FOR KINDERGARTEN

Enrollment

As a public school system, the Plano Independent School District welcomes all students who live within the district boundaries and meet state age and health requirements. Students moving into the district during the summer may call their school to register before the start of the school year. Students who move into the district during the school year should make an appointment to enroll. A student is required to attend school in the attendance zone in which the family resides or obtain an approved transfer.

The natural parent, legal guardian, or other person having legal control under a court order must enroll a student. Any person who is not the natural parent or is not designated guardian of the child by a court order must register with the office of Student Services prior to enrolling the student. The person enrolling the student must present their driver's license or department of transportation identification card at the time of registration.

If a family has not yet moved into the school district but is building or purchasing a home within the district boundaries, a Certificate of Eligibility Form must be completed and the contract for purchase must be submitted to the office of Student Services prior to enrolling.

Records necessary to enroll are:

- Birth certificate or passport
- Current immunization record signed by a physician
- Proof of residency in Plano ISD (natural gas or electricity bill, original lease agreement, or approved Certificate of Eligibility to Enroll form)
- Most recent report card/withdrawal slip from previous school
- Social Security Card (if available; if not, the student will be assigned a State ID number)
- Parent/Guardian Driver's License or Texas Department of Transportation ID card (if parent or guardian is not a licensed driver in Texas nor has the person obtained a TXDOT ID card, other photo ID will be considered in combination with a birth certificate)
- Guardian Information Form (if applicable)

Note: During the enrollment process, students who indicate a language spoken other than English will be administered an oral language proficiency test as required by the Texas Education Code before the enrollment process is completed. Call the Multilingual Assessment Office at 469-752-2250 for additional information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SAFETY TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Whether your child walks or rides in a car or bus, be sure your child is clearly aware of the safety rules associated with that form of transportation. If your child walks to school, it is suggested that you walk with your child until you are absolutely sure that he/she knows the way. Please teach your child where to cross streets safely, to refuse rides from strangers, and to recognize the location of homes of known, safe people in your neighborhood. It is also important for your child to learn the family's telephone number and address.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

For the protection of the child, the teacher **MUST** be notified if there is a change in the way your child goes home from school. Send a note explaining any such transportation changes. In the event of a last minute change, call the school immediately.

CLOTHING

Kindergarten children need to wear clothing and shoes that allow for easy and safe movement. It is advisable that your child dress in clothing that is easily washed. Outdoor learning time is an important part of the kindergarten program. Your child will participate in outdoor activities unless it is raining or extremely hot or cold. It is important that your child's clothing is appropriate for the weather.

LABEL ALL CLOTHING

Please label all outerwear pieces of clothing (coats, sweaters, etc.) and lunchboxes with your child's first and last name.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

Kindergarten through second grade teachers conference with parents and provide portfolio progress reports to parents.

SCHOOL MEALS

For information about school meals, visit www.pisd.edu/fans. This website provides meal prices, menus, and information about creating a SchoolCafe account.

WHEN YOUR CHILD STARTS SCHOOL

The first day of kindergarten is a milestone in your child's life. Your understanding at this "turning point" is important to the child's future attitude toward school and to his or her growth and development. Experts in child development emphasize that you, the parent, can play an important role in starting your child off with the self-confidence needed throughout life. This self-confidence is built upon good feelings about parents, other adults at school, other children, and himself or herself as a worthwhile human being.

Here are some things for you to keep in mind:

- Recognize that the first day your child goes to school is an important event.
- Prepare your child for the new school experience by explaining what to expect and answering all questions honestly.
- Convey a positive attitude about school.
- Make transportation plans clear to the child.
- Create a normal routine atmosphere at home the first few days of school.
- Attend scheduled grade level meetings to be informed about your child's educational program.
- Help your child cope with occasional frustrations and disappointments at school.
- Avoid comparing this child's school experiences with how brothers and sisters or neighbors did when they began school.

A DAY IN KINDERGARTEN

Schedules and routines vary from campus to campus; however, these are the typical blocks of learning within a kindergarten classroom in Plano ISD.

- Arrival Routines and Whole Group Instruction
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Science, Engineering, and Health
- Social Studies
- Small Group Differentiated Instruction
- Learning Centers
- Lunch/Recess
- Specials (P.E, Art, Music)

LITERACY

The English language arts and reading standards embody the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking through the seven integrated strands of developing and sustaining foundational language skills; comprehension; response; multiple genres; author's purpose and craft; composition; and inquiry and research. The strands focus on academic oracy (proficiency in oral expression and comprehension), authentic reading, and reflective writing to ensure a literate Texas. The strands are integrated and progressive with students continuing to develop knowledge and skills with increased complexity and nuance in order to think critically and adapt to the ever-evolving nature of language and literacy.

Strands include the four domains of language (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) and their application in order to accelerate the acquisition of language skills so that students develop high levels of social and academic language proficiency. Although some strands may require more instructional time, each strand is of equal value, may be presented in any order, and should be integrated throughout the year. Students engage in academic conversations, write, read, and be read to on a daily basis with opportunities for cross-curricular content and student choice.

MATHEMATICS

The primary focal areas in Kindergarten Mathematics are understanding counting and cardinality, understanding addition as joining and subtraction as separating, and comparing objects by measurable attributes. Children’s first experiences with numbers influence the way they will deal with mathematics for the rest of their lives. Mathematics is useful for children if we teach it in ways that make sense to them.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In Kindergarten, the study of the self, home, family, and classroom establishes the foundation for responsible citizenship in society. Students acquire information from a variety of oral and visual sources. Students practice problem-solving, decision-making, and independent-thinking skills.

SCIENCE

In Kindergarten science, your child will learn to plan and safely implement classroom and outdoor investigations using scientific processes including inquiry methods, analyzing information, making informed decisions, and using tools to collect and record information, while addressing the major concepts and vocabulary, in the context of physical, earth and space, and life science.

For more information on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Kindergarten, please visit the Texas Education Agency (TEA) website at: <http://tea.texas.gov/curriculum/teks/> .

LEARNING CENTERS

Young children learn by doing. Teachers prepare the environment for children to learn through active exploration and interaction with adults, other children, and materials. Young children benefit from having a classroom with clearly defined, well-equipped learning centers that are arranged to promote independence, foster decision-making, and encourage involvement.

HOME SUPPORT

Parents are their child's first and most important teacher. Parents can do many things at home to help their child succeed in school. They do this by offering encouragement and support. The following information is provided to assist parents as they work with their young child.

- Read with your child every day.
- Give your child opportunities to draw and write.
- Find opportunities in children's play to encourage and support the development of counting and numbers.
- Provide everyday materials to encourage one-to-one counting, classifying, patterning, estimating and measuring such as keys, buttons, measuring cups, measuring spoons, containers, seeds, jars and lids.