



Kindergarten Readiness System

Recognizing Excellence in Texas PreK

Get recognized as a State of Texas PreK Center of Excellence by joining the Kindergarten Readiness System!

The new Texas Kindergarten Readiness System (KRS) recognizes excellence in Texas early childhood education programs across the state. Any Texas school district PreK program, licensed child care center or Head Start program currently serving prekindergartners can apply to be a **PreK CENTER OF EXCELLENCE** at no cost to their program. Designations will be awarded by the Texas Education Agency in 2013.

Texas PreK programs can apply to be a PreK CENTER OF EXCELLENCE. To apply, go to <https://tx.ereadi.com>.

- KRS recognizes the positive impact of your PreK program with a “**PreK Center of Excellence**” designation.
- The KRS program values local control and creative classroom efforts that prepare preschoolers for success in kindergarten.
- Your PreK program can join KRS using a simple and web-based application process.
- The **PreK Center of Excellence** designation is considered a gold standard in high quality PreK by the State of Texas.
- This program is voluntary and offered at no charge.

Apply to be a PreK Center of Excellence, and let parents and your community know your program cares about giving their children the very best start when they enter kindergarten.

This program is offered through a partnership with the Texas Education Agency, Texas Workforce Commission and Region 17 Education Service Center.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do you have a question not answered here? If so, click here to get the answer from our Help Desk: KRS@oz-systems.com.

Who can apply?

Any Texas school district PreK program, licensed child care center or Head Start program currently serving prekindergartners can now apply to be a **PREK CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**.

When can my program apply?

The Kindergarten Readiness System is available for registration NOW. It is important that you get your prekindergarten data submitted as soon as possible in order to be considered for the **PREK CENTER OF EXCELLENCE** designation in 2013.

Why should my PreK program apply to be a PreK Center of Excellence?

The KRS program informs parents and communities about the positive student impact your early childhood education program offers. This designation is offered by the State of Texas and assures your parents that their children are getting the educational foundation they need to succeed in kindergarten.

Does recognition in the Kindergarten Readiness System qualify for enhanced reimbursement rates from the Texas Workforce Commission?

Recognition in the Kindergarten Readiness System qualifies childcare providers for enhanced reimbursement rates since it is the state's authorized school readiness certification system.

How does the process work?

The KRS program is the only system in the nation that accommodates all program types and uses input data from a student's preschool as well as outcome data from the kindergarten reading diagnostic instrument to determine the effectiveness of early childhood education programs in preparing students for kindergarten.

Preschools simply enter information about their programs into a secure web-based system and then the KRS project does the rest. In the fall of 2012, the KRS program will collect kindergarten reading diagnostic results (the outcome data) from school districts. The project links student records from a PreK program to their corresponding kindergarten literacy results so the impact of each applicant's preschool program can be determined. Designations are awarded by the Texas Education Agency and Education Service Center 17.

When is my campus or center named a PreK Center of Excellence?

The Texas Education Agency awards the **PreK Center of Excellence** designations in 2013. Recognized programs will receive a congratulatory letter and means to download web banners, print materials, and school banners for use in notifying parents and their communities about this achievement. Non-recognized programs will be notified in writing and given information about research-based best practices and resources available to them for program improvement.

Is this an annual designation?

At this time, the designation is determined on an annual basis.

Is my ECE program required to apply?

The KRS program is voluntary except for Texas Literacy Initiative and Texas School Ready! grant participants, whose participation is mandated under the state's grant. The Texas Education Agency is using the KRS program to fulfill the evaluation requirements of these two grant programs. All other Texas preschools are welcome to participate in KRS and seek the **PreK Center of Excellence** designation.

Is technical assistance provided?

Customer support is provided from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST at 866-336-3025, option 4 or KRS@oz-systems.com. E-mail and user manual support is available on the <https://ereadi.com> website.

Is training available?

Live and recorded WebEx (webinar) training sessions are available to support users starting March 26, 2012. Training Link: <https://ozsystems.webex.com/mw03071/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=ozsystems&service=6>

How much does it cost to apply for the PreK Center of Excellence designation?

This program is offered at no cost to public schools, licensed childcare providers and Head Start programs.

What burden does this application process place on my current staff?

Registering has been simplified from the previous year. Data about your preschool program is entered into the KRS website once, which is designed to minimize data entry burdens. ISD campus-related information has already been preloaded into KRS. In addition, hundreds of licensed childcare centers and Head Start programs are pre-populated in KRS. Most data fields that are required to apply for the **PreK Center of Excellence** designation can be imported from existing file sources.

Does KRS endorse specific models of teaching?

The KRS program recognizes that numerous modalities are used in preschool classrooms across Texas. The KRS analytical approach does not impose biases or pre-conceptions as to *how* a PreK program should get students ready for kindergarten. Instead, it acknowledges local control and creative solutions by measuring how well a preschool program prepares children for success in kindergarten.

How are programs measured?

The Kindergarten Readiness System recognizes the efforts of local PreK programs that are getting students ready for kindergarten. The statewide program uses a transparent methodology to designate high quality PreK programs as "PreK Centers of Excellence". The KRS analytical approach identifies how well a particular PreK program prepares preschoolers for kindergarten success.

The KRS is *not* an accountability system. It evaluates the impact of PreK programs; it does not measure the performance of individual PreK students. A fuller description of the methodology will be fully disclosed and publicly available soon.

What kindergarten literacy assessments are collected by the program?

Starting in the 2012-2013 school year, the Texas Education Agency's plan is for the KRS system to collect outcome information from all the reading assessment instruments included on the Texas Education Agency Commissioner's approved list.

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=2147504141&libID=2147504135>

Do I have to notify my local ISD so that they enter my students' kindergarten assessments?

No, all ISDs and charter schools are required to submit the kindergarten assessment results each fall. The KRS program will locate the assessments for your students.

Are non-licensed child care programs eligible to apply?

Non-licensed and registered child care homes are not eligible to participate in the KRS program at this time.

Is this a state-sponsored program?

The Texas Kindergarten Readiness System is a statewide program authorized under Texas Education Code 29.161.

Contact information

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