



# Press Release

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## Galena Park ISD Sees Great Success in Pre-K 3-Year-Old Program

**Houston, Texas:** Early Childhood Development is a critical time in a child's life. Galena Park ISD (GPISD) wants to ensure these critical development periods begin at the earliest age possible and are free of cost for our students. During the 2017-2018 school year, we opened the GPISD Pre-Kindergarten 3-Year-Old program (Pre-K 3) at Jacinto City Elementary (JCE) and Tice Elementary (Tice). Each site serves 40 students; 20 English speaking students in the morning and 20 bilingual English learners in the afternoon.

We kicked off Pre-K 3 by hosting a Pre-K Round-Up event during the 2017 spring semester, which allowed early registration for students who met the State of Texas Pre-Kindergarten Eligibility Requirements and live within the GPISD community. After the Round-Up, we had 161 applicants and 156 of those students met the state requirements. The students were then entered into a lottery for the 80 available slots. Each student selected received FREE tuition for the entire school year.

After the first successful year of the Pre-K 3 program and JCE and Tice and the overwhelming response from the community, we decided to open up an additional site this school year at Woodland Acres Elementary.

Thus far, the Pre-K 3 program has provided a nurturing environment and a solid foundation to help our young learners achieve their fullest potential. Through structured play, classroom routine and lessons; teachers are strengthening the social and emotional development of students while setting the foundation for learning. The tailored Pre-K 3 curriculum and early exposure has positively helped our students' development and social skills; it has certainly enhanced their oral language to help prepare them for their academic career.

Registration information for the 2019-2020 Pre-Kindergarten Round-Up will be posted on the GPISD webpage and social media sites during the spring semester.



Pictured: Dr. Williams, superintendent of schools, with Woodland Acres Elementary Pre-K 3 student, Genesis Rodriguez

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