

AWBLA SOAR

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is AWBLA going to a year-round, full-day pre-kindergarten program?

A. W. Brown Leadership Academy (AWBLA) was created to provide an exemplary education for scholars in the southern sector of Dallas. The educational system has seen many transitions since our inception, but our mission remains the same. AWBLA is serious about returning structure and excellence to education. As a result, we've had to re-examine our entire program to determine our strengths and weaknesses. Our early childhood program is unique and provides an opportunity for us to reach our scholars early. We know that an early start is a great start. To that end, our primary growth as a district will take place in our PK programs.

This innovative, year-round program will help to ensure our scholars start their educational career on track and remain on track. Come fly with the Golden Eagles with AWBLA SOAR.

Is the Year-Round Track Mandatory?

The year-round Track is not mandatory. The year-round track for PK3 & PK4 starts June 4, 2018. However, scholars are not required to start in June. When you register you will have the opportunity to indicate to the registrars your intended start date.

Start dates include:

- June 4th
- July 9th
- August 9th

Are TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) or a required state curriculum for PK?

There are no TEKS for prekindergarten nor is there a required state curriculum. However, AWBLA follows the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines and uses a research-based language arts curriculum titled Frog Street for PK3 and Pre-K 4 Curriculum is DLM Express.

When does the year round PK program start?

The year-round track for PK3 & PK4 starts June 4, 2018. However, scholars are not required to start in June. When you register you will have the opportunity to indicate to the registrars your intended start date.

Start dates include:

- June 4th
- July 9th
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A. W. Brown Leadership Academy is making a strategic investment in our youngest learners because an early start is a great start!

Laura Mimms
AWBLA Superintendent

"Kindergarten students who attend pre-k were three times more likely to be ready for school."

Source: E3 Alliance

Are families required to participate in the summer program?

Families are not required to participate in the summer program, but it is strongly encouraged. Participating in the summer program achieves several AWBLA goals:

- ensuring scholars have the opportunity to get a great start
- acclimating our youngest learners to school prior to the August 9th start of school
- increasing time scholars have to master PK3 and PK4 content prior to the dates data must be submitted to the state

What are the days and hours of the PK program?

The AWBLA PK program hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 3:00pm. Students may be dropped off as early as 7:00am and must be picked up at 3:00pm unless they enroll in before care or after care.

Is my child required to be immunized?

Scholars enrolling in Brown Leadership Academies for the first time must provide evidence of required immunizations. In compliance with state law, each scholar shall be fully immunized.

Are PK students required to wear uniforms?

PK students are required to wear uniforms. Guidelines can be found on our website at www.awbrown.org. Please click the Parent tab and then Uniform Guidelines. The guidelines have not changed from the 2017-18 Academic Year.

Is there a PK Supply List?

All AWBLA Supply Lists can be found on our website at www.awbrown.org. Please click the Parent tab and then supply lists.

What are the attendance requirements?

PK is school; as a result, regular attendance is mandatory. Pre-Kindergarten scholars will be governed by the same attendance rules as stated above with the following exception: After five (5) days of unexcused absences, the scholar is automatically dropped from the Pre-Kindergarten program. A written notice will be sent to the parent. State regulation requires that attendance reports are made by 10:00 a.m. Therefore, a scholar is considered absent after that time and should not report to school unless she/he has a doctor's excuse and brings a lunch. When a scholar is absent, we must have a note from the parent or guardian concerning his/her absence(s).

The note must include the following:

- Scholar's Name
- Grade
- Days missed
- Reason
- Parent/Guardian's signature
- Parent/Guardian's home and work phone number

If the parent/guardian calls and notifies the school that the scholar will be absent, an excused note must also be provided. For audit purposes, a file is kept of all notes received. The State has provided a list of excused and unexcused reasons to which we must refer to determine if an absence is excused or unexcused.

Are there any fees associated with the program?

There are no fees associated with the program. There are fees for before school, 6:00am to 7:00am and after school 3:30pm to 6:00pm. There are fees for field trips and other extracurricular activities.

What meals will students receive?

All students will receive a free breakfast. AWBLA is part of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). As a result, scholars who qualify for free lunch may eat free. Scholars who qualify for reduced or full pay lunch will eat lunch for a fee. Students will also receive an afternoon snack as part of the NSLP snack program.

AWLBA is part of the High Quality Pre-Kindergarten Program. What does the High Quality program entail?

As part of the Texas Education Agency's High Quality PK program, our PK4 teachers are degreed, certified and required to participate in extensive early childhood training each year.

The Texas Education Agency website states:

TEA supports high quality prekindergarten that is developmentally appropriate, multisensory and experiential. Young children thrive when provided a learning environment that inspires curiosity, builds confidence and fosters a love of learning.

Children are "ready" for school when families, schools, and communities work together to ensure they enter school with strong foundational knowledge and skills across 5 primary domains of development. Although separate, these domains are interconnected and development in one area reinforces development in the other.

The primary domains of development are:

1. *Physical – Gross and Fine Motor*
2. *Literacy – Reading and Writing*
3. *Mathematical – Concepts and Thinking*
4. *Language and Communication*
5. *Health and Wellness*

In order to provide high quality early childhood education that is focused on the unique needs of each child, student progress monitoring and kindergarten readiness are measured across multiple domains of development.

Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

Please contact Dr. Kim Dalcour if you have additional questions. She can be reached at kdalcour@awbrown.org.