

Hey Tawnell,

As presidential candidates and legislators across the country tout plans to make early education accessible to all children, [Alief Independent School District](#) in Texas is paving the way by expanding its full-time pre-kindergarten program ahead of a state-wide funding increase in September.

Early childhood education has turned into a national discussion, with experts finding that full-day programs provide the foundation children need as they enter school and result in [achievement gains in math and literacy](#) that continue into kindergarten and beyond.

Consistently at the forefront of the battle to expand early childhood education opportunities, Alief Superintendent HD Chambers worked alongside legislators to develop and pass the state's new policy requiring funding for full-day pre-kindergarten programs. This month, Alief is implementing early education models in five Houston schools as part of its three-year plan to expand pre-kindergarten programs at all district elementary campuses.

As pre-kindergarten programs expand throughout the nation, it will increase the demand for highly effective teachers. To address this growing need, Alief is partnering with the [Relay Graduate School of Education](#) to prepare exceptional educators for the new teaching positions. Focused on ensuring all graduates are fully prepared to be effective teachers in the classroom, Relay provides aspiring educators with a supportive, gradual introduction to teaching. This year, Alief will host 13 Relay teaching residents, up from just two serving in the district last year, and that number will continue to grow as the district's programs expand.

Let me know if you'd like to learn more or speak with leaders from Alief and Relay about this exciting partnership to provide Texas children with a high-quality pre-kindergarten education.

Thanks for your consideration!