

February 10, 2021

Dear ECE Provider,

General Academic wants the opportunity to promote your Early Care and Education (ECE) center. More than 50,000 Houston-area families rely on our free research and analysis every year at HoustonSchoolSurvey.com, and we want them to know about you.

The services that you and your team of caregivers provide are critical to a child's development, which have been linked to substantial academic and societal benefits including higher graduation rates and increased household incomes.

To increase the chance of your provider's inclusion in our initial analysis, simply complete the survey [online](#) by no later than March 5, 2021. The survey should take less than 1 hour to complete. While there is no charge to participate, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to profile all interested providers. Our initial focus will be on providers within the Beltway.

We plan to publish our findings as a free resource for parents at HoustonSchoolSurvey.com by fall of 2021. This website will include summary analysis of the Houston ECE market as a whole as well as individual profiles of selected providers.

General Academic has been a leading publisher on Houston K12 education since we wrote our first book on Houston private schools in 2011. Our free website HoustonSchoolSurvey.com currently profiles more than 80 private and select public schools. However, we realized there's a major need to help young parents even before the start of kindergarten.

We now seek to better understand the state of ECE in Houston including the availability, cost, and benefits associated with area daycare providers. This initial research and analysis is being led by four seniors majoring in [Social Policy Analysis at Rice University](#). Their goal is to analyze the Houston ECE market and understand how local and federal policy might improve access and effectiveness.

Please note that the PDF preview that follows should not be printed and mailed. You must complete the survey [online](#).

Thank you for participating!



Shelby Joe
President
General Academic

Houston Early Childhood Education Center Provider Survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you have any questions about our research or the final project, please email lab25@rice.edu.

* Required

1. Email address *

Contact Information

2. Center Name *

3. Street Address (e.g., 1234 Bissonnet St Ste. 56) *

4. City *

5. Zip Code *

6. Is this location... *

Check all that apply.

- Inside the I-610 Loop?
- Inside the Beltway?
- Outside the Beltway?

7. Phone Number *

8. Email Address *

9. Link to Website *

10. Name of Director *

Operation

The next several questions will discuss your center's hours of operation and options for programming.

11. How many students are enrolled in pre-kindergarten programs? (Age 5 and younger)

12. What is your maximum enrollment capacity for pre-kindergarten programs?

13. What time do you open? *

Example: 8:30 AM

14. What time do you close? *

Example: 8:30 AM

15. What are the options for attendance? (Please check all that apply or describe if this list is not comprehensive.) *

Check all that apply.

- Full-time program (5 days a week)
- Tuesday/Thursday program
- Monday/Wednesday/Friday program

Other: _____

16. On what holidays are you closed? *

17. Do you offer after-hours care? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes *Skip to question 18*
- No *Skip to question 22*

After-Hours Care

18. When does after-hours care begin?

Example: 8:30 AM

19. When does after-hours care end?

Example: 8:30 AM

20. Please describe the programming available during after-hours care. For example, some schools may offer unstructured supervised playtime, while others may offer additional learning opportunities such as language classes or music lessons.

21. What is the cost/fee for after-hours care?

Cost

The next several questions will discuss expenses related to your program, such as tuition costs and other additional fees.

22. What is the tuition for students enrolled full time in your youngest age group? *

23. What is the tuition for students enrolled full time in your oldest (pre-kindergarten) age group?

24. Other than tuition, are there any additional costs associated with attendance? If yes, what are these additional costs? *

25. Is there an application fee? If yes, what is it? *

26. Do you participate in child care assistance programs (subsidized child care for low-income families)? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

27. Do you offer discounts or scholarships? (Sibling discounts, discounts for paying in full, scholarships for lower-income families, etc.) *

Mark only one oval.

Yes *Skip to question 28*

No *Skip to question 29*

Discounts and Scholarships

28. What scholarships or discounts do you provide to families?

Admissions
Criteria

The next several questions will discuss the standards for enrollment for students in your program.

29. What is the minimum age required for enrollment? *

Mark only one oval.

- 3 months
- 6 months
- 12 months
- 18 months
- 2 years
- 3 years
- Other: _____

30. What developmental milestones are required for admission? (crawling, walking, potty-trained, etc.) *

Check all that apply.

- Crawling
- Walking
- Potty-trained
- No developmental milestones required
- Other: _____

31. Do you have any other admissions criteria? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes *Skip to question 32*
- No *Skip to question 33*

Admissions Criteria (cont.)

32. What additional criteria for admission do you have?

Waitlist

The next several questions address your waitlist and waitlist policies.

33. What would the expected wait time be in weeks if a parent were ready to enroll their student on March 1, 2021? *

Mark only one oval.

- No wait time
- 1 month or less
- 2 – 3 months
- 4 – 5 months
- 6 months or more

34. What would the expected wait time be in weeks if a parent were ready to enroll their student on June 1, 2021? *

Mark only one oval.

- No wait time
- 1 month or less
- 2 – 3 months
- 4 – 5 months
- 6 months or more

35. What would the expected wait time be in weeks if a parent were ready to enroll their student on September 1, 2021? *

Mark only one oval.

- No wait time
- 1 month or less
- 2 – 3 months
- 4 – 5 months
- 6 months or more

36. Is there a fee to be on the waitlist? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes *Skip to question 37*
- No *Skip to question 38*

Waitlist (cont.)

37. What is the fee to be on the waitlist?

Teaching Philosophy

The next several questions will discuss your center's approach to teaching.

38. Do you utilize a specific teaching philosophy? (e.g., Montessori, Waldorf, Reggio Emilia, etc.) *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

39. What teaching philosophy do you utilize? (Montessori, Waldorf, Reggio Emilia, etc.) *
If you do not use a specific philosophy, please describe the philosophy used at your facility.

40. What is your mission statement? *

Religious Affiliation

41. Do you have a religious affiliation? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes *Skip to question 42*

No *Skip to question 43*

Religious Affiliation (cont.)

42. With what religion are you affiliated?

Accreditation

43. Are you accredited? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes *Skip to question 44*

No *Skip to question 45*

Accreditation details

44. By what organization(s) are you accredited?

Curriculum

The next several questions discuss the day-to-day curriculum and activities offered by your center.

45. Do you have designated outdoor time during the day? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

46. If the weather does not permit outdoor time, what are the alternate activities? *

47. What does a typical school day look like for each age group? *

For example, what activities are included in a normal day for infants? For toddlers and pre-school students? When do students have free play time?

48. What is the distribution of time between unstructured playtime, structured playtime, and instruction? *

For example, 60% of the day is in guided instruction; 20% is structured playtime, and 20% is nap time.

49. Do you offer dual-language instruction? *

Dual-language students learn daily content in two languages at once. For example, a dual language classroom might teach math in English and Spanish. Dual-language instruction does not refer to language classes, such as a weekly Spanish class.

Mark only one oval.

Yes *Skip to question 50*

No *Skip to question 51*

Dual-
language
Instruction

Dual-language students learn daily content in two languages at once. For example, a dual language classroom might teach math in English and Spanish. Dual-language instruction does not refer to language classes, such as a weekly Spanish class.

50. In what language(s) do you offer dual-instruction?

Check all that apply.

Spanish

Arabic

Mandarin

French

Other: _____

Behavioral Expectations and Discipline

51. What is your disciplinary policy? *

52. Do parents receive a report of their student's disciplinary incidents? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Other: _____

Quality of Care

The next several questions address the standard of care offered at your center.

53. What is the minimum level of education that you require of teachers? *

Mark only one oval.

- High school diploma
- Some college
- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Graduate degree
- No requirement
- Other: _____

54. Do you have parent-teacher conferences? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

55. How often do parents interact with teachers? *

56. Do parents receive daily progress/activity reports? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

57. Do you have a nanny cam that allows parents to observe the classroom during the day? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

58. Are there other ways may parents observe the classroom throughout the day? If yes, please describe

Teachers

The next several questions discuss the different topics that relate to the experience of teachers at your center, such as interactions among teachers, students, and parents.

59. How many teachers do you employ? *

60. How many students are each teacher in an infant classroom responsible for? *

The student to teacher ratio is 1:x

Mark only one oval.

1

2

3

4

5

6

No infant classrooms

61. How many students are each teacher in a toddler classroom responsible for? *

The student to teacher ratio is 1:x

Mark only one oval.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

No toddler classrooms

62. How many students are each teacher in a pre-school classroom responsible for? *

The student to teacher ratio is 1:x

Mark only one oval.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 10+
- No pre-school classrooms

63. On average, how many years of experience do your teachers have? *

Mark only one oval.

- Less than 1 year
- 1 – 5 years
- 5 – 10 years
- 10 – 20 years
- More than 20 years

64. Do teachers get paid sick leave? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes, all teachers
- Yes, some teachers
- No

65. What percentage of your teachers are salaried? *

Mark only one oval.

- None (0%)
- 0% – 25% are salaried
- 25% – 50% are salaried
- 50% – 75% are salaried
- 75% – 100% are salaried
- All (100%)

66. What percentage of your teachers are hourly workers? *

Mark only one oval.

- None (0%)
- 0% – 25% are hourly
- 25% – 50% are hourly
- 50% – 75% are hourly
- 75% – 100% are hourly
- All (100%)

Staff
Demographics

The following questions address the demographics of your administrative and teaching staff.

67. What percentage of your staff are White? *

Mark only one oval.

- Less than 10%
- 10% – 25%
- 25% – 50%
- 50% – 75%
- 75% – 90%
- More than 90%

68. What percentage of your staff are Black? *

Mark only one oval.

- Less than 10%
- 10% – 25%
- 25% – 50%
- 50% – 75%
- 75% – 90%
- More than 90%

69. What percentage of your staff are Hispanic/Latino? *

Mark only one oval.

- Less than 10%
- 10% – 25%
- 25% – 50%
- 50% – 75%
- 75% – 90%
- More than 90%

70. What percentage of your staff are East Asian? *

Mark only one oval.

- Less than 10%
- 10% – 25%
- 25% – 50%
- 50% – 75%
- 75% – 90%
- More than 90%

71. What percentage of your staff are South Asian? *

Mark only one oval.

- Less than 10%
- 10% – 25%
- 25% – 50%
- 50% – 75%
- 75% – 90%
- More than 90%

72. What proportion of your staff identify as women? *

Mark only one oval.

- Less than 10%
- 10% – 25%
- 25% – 50%
- 50% – 75%
- 75% – 90%
- More than 90%

73. What proportion of your staff identify as men? *

Mark only one oval.

- Less than 10%
- 10% – 25%
- 25% – 50%
- 50% – 75%
- 75% – 90%
- More than 90%

Management and
Training

The next several questions discuss different aspects of your center's management logistics and teacher training.

74. Do you have any additional staff members that cater to specific student needs, such as school nurses, counselors, etc.? If so, what staff? *

75. How many years do teachers/staff stay with your center on average? *

Mark only one oval.

- Less than 1 year
- 1 – 3 years
- 3 – 5 years
- 5 – 10 years
- 10 – 20 years
- More than 20 years

76. Does your program provide a transportation service to assist students in getting to and from school? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
 No

77. Are staff regularly and formally evaluated by the management team at least once a year? (i.e., performance evaluations) *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes *Skip to question 78*
 No *Skip to question 80*

Performance Evaluations

78. Who completes these evaluations? (Director, other administrative staff, etc.?)

79. Are parents involved at all in evaluations?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
 No

Food

The next several questions discuss your policies and practices around food that you serve to your students.

80. Do you provide snacks to students? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

81. Do you provide meals to students? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes *Skip to question 82*

No *Skip to question 86*

Food (cont.)

82. At what times are food provided?

For example, lunch is from 11:00 to 12:00, and afternoon snack is served at 2:30.

83. What kinds of food are provided? (e.g., catered meals, parent-provided meals, meals prepared onsite, etc.)

84. Is the food provided organic?

Mark only one oval.

Yes, always

Yes, when possible

No

85. Is produce fresh or canned?

Mark only one oval.

- Fresh
- Canned
- Both
- No produce served

Health
and
Safety

The next several questions discuss different health and safety precautions that a center might take, such as sick policies and safety standards.

86. What are the vaccine requirements for enrollment? *

87. On what grounds can students be exempt?

88. What was the sick policy for students before the COVID-19 pandemic? *

For example, students must be 24 hours fever free without medication; students must stay home if temperature exceeds 99 degrees; students must stay home if experiencing vomiting or diarrhea.

89. What is the sick policy for students now in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic? *

For example, students are required to provide negative test results after being exposed to COVID-19; students are asked to stay home if they have one or more symptoms associated with COVID-19

90. What was the security protocol for visitors before the COVID-19 pandemic? *

For example, guests show identification at guard station before being permitted on campus; visitors must check in at the front desk; visitors must be buzzed through two locked security doors and escorted through the facility by a staff member.

91. What is the security protocol for visitors in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic? *

For example, guests show identification at guard station before being permitted on campus; visitors must check in at the front desk; visitors must be buzzed through two locked security doors and escorted through the facility by a staff member.

92. Can parents "drop in"/visit whenever they please? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

93. How frequently are parents updated about their child? *

Mark only one oval.

Hourly

Daily

Weekly

Other: _____

Special Needs
Students

These questions address your capacity to serve students with special needs (e.g. developmental delays, physical impairment)

94. Do you accept students with special needs? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

Sometimes

No

95. How many students with special needs are currently enrolled in your program? *

96. What kind of accommodations or modifications to the curriculum do you provide for students who have special needs? *

97. What mechanisms are in place for students with special needs to interact with their peers? *

Additional Comments

98. Thank you for completing this survey! Please use this space to include any additional facts about your program that you feel parents should know.

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