

Information About Pre-K Programs

Public Pre-K classes are funded with state, federal, and local funding. There is no cost to parents for the educational program. However, children must meet eligibility criteria to participate in the Pre K program.

Eligibility for the Program

Many children are eligible to attend a Pre-k program. The information you submit with your application is compared to eligibility criteria that is required by NC Pre-K, Head Start and Title I Program, including income, family size, demonstrated educational need and other risk factors.

This is not a first come, first served program. Applications that are received after June 1st may be more likely to be placed on a wait list since placement letters will go out between June 1st and July 31st.

Screening Appointments

Parents who complete and submit applications between February 1 and March 31, **and** indicate a preference for a school site, must have their child screened to be considered for placement in a Pre-K class in an elementary school. After we have reviewed your application with the required documentation, a staff member will be in touch to schedule a screening appointment.

Children enrolled in the Pre-K program who have not been screened will have a screening conducted over the summer by appointment or by their classroom teacher after enrollment.

Placement Status Notification

Please be sure to fill out the preference form that is attached to the application, we ask that you rank your 3 preferred sites. The placement process occurs over a period of several weeks. Placement Letters will be mailed out between June 1st and July 31st.

Waiting Lists for Pre-K

Space is limited and some children will be placed on a wait list. If your child is placed on a wait list, you will be contacted during the school year if a space becomes available in a site that meets the needs of your family.

For applications received before August 1st, waitlist letters will go out during the month of August. Applications received after August 1st will automatically be placed on a waitlist. You will be notified if a space becomes available at any time during the school year.

The Pre-K Schedule

The Pre-K program operates on a schedule similar to the public schools. Please note that sites have different hours of operation. Children must be dropped off and picked up on time each day. Hours of operation (6.5 hours each day) will be included in the eligibility/ placement letter.

The program may schedule other days for parent meetings, home visits, or staff development. Pre-K teachers will provide a calendar when school starts.

Transportation

Parents are responsible for providing transportation for their child. Children are not allowed to ride school buses to and from school until they go to Kindergarten. If transportation should become a problem during the school year please discuss this with your child's teacher

Before and After School Care

Some families may need before and/or after school care. This service is not included as part of the Pre-K program. However some sites do offer this service for a fee. If you are currently receiving a voucher for childcare from the Dept. of Social Services, talk to your case manager about using vouchers for wraparound care.

Changes on Your Application

Please notify Smart Start of Forsyth County of any changes to your household. A Change Request Form must be filled out. Changes to report: address (bring proof of new address), phone number, income, and/or Pre-K classroom location preference.

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