

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

Prekindergarten Application Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Who is eligible for prekindergarten (pre-K) programs?

All pre-K students must be age four on or before August 15, 2017, with some exceptions (explained below) and a resident of Davidson County for the 2017-2018 school year. In addition, some Metro pre-K classrooms are funded in different ways, including using local, state and federal funding. Each funding source comes with different requirements, like serving only low-income students, living within a certain distance of the school or fee base. We also offer pre-K classrooms for students with special needs.

How do I know which classroom my child is eligible to attend?

The Pre-K Program Guide explains the eligibility requirements for each classroom, alphabetized by school. If you have further questions, you can call the Metro Schools Family Information Center at (615) 259-INFO (4636). Some schools have multiple types of pre-K classrooms with various funding and eligibilities.

What is a Blended classroom?

Blended pre-K classes are designed for students with special needs and students without special needs. Class sizes are typically smaller and seats are limited within blended programs. Blended classrooms implement the same curriculum as other pre-K programs.

Why do some classrooms require a fee, have an income, or zone requirements and others do not?

Metro pre-K classrooms are funded in a number of different ways, including using local, state and federal funding. Each fund source has different requirements, like serving only low-income students or charging a fee.

How much do pre-K programs cost?

Some pre-K classes require a fee, which is based on a sliding scale. Depending on a family's household income, that fee could be anywhere from \$0-144 per child every week. The fee does not include before or after care.

How do I apply for pre-K?

Families will need to visit one of the Enrollment Centers with their child's birth certificate or record of birth, proof of Davidson County residency (current utility bill, telephone, lease or homeowner policy) and a Parent/Guardian photo ID to receive a student identification number. The student identification number will be needed to apply for pre-K.

After receiving a student identification number, you will still need to complete a pre-K application online at MNPS.org or at an Enrollment Center.

After filling out and submitting an online application available online or at an Enrollment Center, families will receive next steps containing important dates for the selection process. To learn more about the MNPS pre-k application process or pre-k program visit MNPS.org.

How does the application and selection process work?

Pre-K Application Weeks are March 27 – April 7, 2017 (3:30 pm) for the 2017-2018 school year. Applications submitted during this week will be included in the first selection process. Applications received after April 7 at 3:30 p.m. will be added to the end of applicable waitlists.

You may apply for up to seven schools on the application, prioritizing schools in order of preference beginning with the top school of choice listed as number one (1). A random drawing will be held to fill available seats with acceptance and waitlist letters sent afterward. Full selection results will also be posted online at MNPS.org. Along with letters, emails will be sent to families who provide email addresses when applying for pre-K.

After the random selection process of eligible applicants, your child will be dropped from schools listed below the school he or she was selected to attend. For example, your child applies to School Choice 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. If your child is selected to School 3, his or her application for Schools 4, 5, 6, and 7 will be eliminated. He or she will remain on a waitlist for any schools ranked higher than the one selected to attend. In this example, your child will remain on the waiting list for choices 1 and 2 until mid-July.

Before your child can be enrolled, you must sign and return the acceptance letter, along with income documentation, immunization (vaccination record) and proof of a physical examination to the school site in which your child was selected to attend by the set pre-k calendar deadline. If your child is not selected during the first selection process, he/she will be placed on a waiting list for the 2017-2018 school year. You will be contacted as vacancies become available. Do not give up childcare until you receive an acceptance letter telling you that your child was assigned to a Metro pre-K classroom.

How long does a student remain on a wait list?

The waiting list will remain active throughout the school year. As vacancies occur, families will be contacted to inform them of acceptance into an open seat.

What if I missed the Pre-K Application period?

Families can still apply for MNPS pre-K programs after the Pre-K Application period. MNPS will continue to accept applications throughout the school year. Families will be placed on the school's wait list and notified when a vacancy occurs. Families can apply for MNPS pre-K programs at one of the district's eleven enrollment centers or the Family Information Center.

What are the Early Learning Centers? Are they different from the other pre-K programs?

MNPS has four Early Learning Centers (ELC): Cambridge ELC, Casa Azafrán ELC, Ivanetta H. Davis ELC and Ross ELC. These are schools that exclusively service pre-k students. The curriculum used at these centers will be the same as the majority of MNPS pre-K programs.

Is transportation provided?

Metro Schools does not provide school bus transportation for pre-K, unless indicated in a child's Individual Educational Program (IEP) as a student with special needs. Parents are responsible for bringing and picking up their child.

What do I do if I need to make changes to my application once I submit it to the school?

If you would like to make any changes to your application after it is submitted, edits can be made on the MNPS website. Families must have their child's student identification number to make changes online or can visit an MNPS Enrollment Center. All changes should be made prior to the April 7 deadline to be considered for the first selection process for the 2017-2018 school year. Changes made to the application after the first selection process, will be placed on the school's waiting list.

Is there a sibling or employee preference to attend a Pre-Kindergarten program in a certain school?

Yes, there is a sibling, employee and zone preference applied for families that meet the program eligibility.

Can I apply for Head Start through this process?

Head Start programs are separate from MNPS. Families will need to contact Head Start for enrollment information. Head Start - (615)862-8860

Does MNPS offer Before/After Care Programs?

Parents/Guardians should research before and after care programs when registering for pre-K. Many pre-K locations have before and after care available on-site. Some programs are fee-based while others are not. Please refer to the Pre-K Program Guide to learn more about before & after care program availability by pre-K location. Most

programs have limited seat availability, so families are encouraged to apply for before & after care once their child is accepted into a pre-K program.

Are there additional resources to support families and prepare their child for kindergarten?

The district has partnered with Alignment Nashville and many other community organizations to develop iTrails.org, a pre-K and kindergarten readiness website. iTrails.org is a free resource for families. Visit iTrails at: www.iTrails.org or www.mnps.org/countdowntokindergarten