



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

Early Childhood Education Programs

A GUIDE TO PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR 3- AND 4-YEAR-OLDS FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

*Attending a high-quality preschool program helps children prepare to arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed. In fact, research shows that children who receive a high-quality early childhood education are more likely to do well in school, graduate from high school, and get higher paying jobs. There are several types of free or low-cost early childhood programs in New York City, including **Pre-K for All**, **3-K for All** (see page 6), **Extended Day and Year Seats** (see page 12), and **Head Start** (see page 13).*

PRE-K FOR ALL PROGRAMS

Pre-K for All programs are free preschool programs for children who are four years old. A child is eligible to start Pre-K for All in September of the year in which they turn four years old. For the 2024-2025 school year, children are eligible if they were born in 2020.

The NYC Department of Education (DOE) runs Pre-K for All. Pre-K for All programs are located in NYC DOE district schools, NYC DOE Pre-K Centers, community-based organizations called NYC Early Education Centers (NYCEECs), and charter schools.

- NYC DOE district school pre-K programs are located in DOE public elementary schools and overseen by the school's principal.
- NYC DOE Pre-K Centers are run by DOE staff, but they have pre-K and 3-K classes only. They may be located in DOE public school buildings or separate DOE sites.
- NYC Early Education Centers (NYCEECs) are community-based organizations that contract with the DOE to run pre-K programs.
- Charter schools are free public schools that are run by an independent board of trustees, rather than by the DOE.

All Pre-K for All programs are held to high quality standards. Most programs are full day (6 hours and 20 minutes), but there are some five-hour programs and some half-day programs (2 hours and 30 minutes) available.

PRE-K FOR ALL: ADMISSIONS PROCESS

You can apply to full-day Pre-K for All programs at DOE district schools, DOE Pre-K Centers, and NYCEECs using one application form. All families of children born in 2020 can participate in the pre-K admissions process, including families of students with disabilities, Emergent Multilingual Learners, and students in temporary housing.

Explore Your Options: January 2024

You may research Pre-K for All programs using the online directory at [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov/). The online directory has maps and information about programs across New York City. You can use the online directory to locate programs in your neighborhood of choice, whether near your home address, place of work, or some other location.

Once you enter an address in the online directory on [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov/), you'll find Pre-K for All programs in the school district and information about the program type. In addition to listing the location and contact information for each pre-K program, the directory also provides information on extended hours, language supports provided at the program (for example, dual language programs), whether a program is fully or partially accessible, and the program code (for the Pre-K for All application). You can also browse programs by borough or use filters to search for programs by location, proximity to public transportation, accessibility, language supports and other preferences. Each program page will include the program website, contact information, admissions priorities, which groups of students received offers last year and more. You can also access the "Pre-K Quality Snapshot" to see how families and evaluators rated the program. Once the application period begins, you can also use [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov/) to apply to programs.

You can use the information found online to make a list of programs where you may want to apply. Once you have made this list, you may want to contact the programs to help you decide which ones are best for your child and ask about open houses and tours. In making your list of programs, you should also think about your child's chances of getting an offer to each pre-K program. Admission to each Pre-K for All program is based on a list of admissions priorities. See page 4 for information about these admissions priorities.

Apply to Pre-K for All Programs: By March 1, 2024

The DOE's application process allows you to apply to up to 12 full-day (6 hour, 20 minutes) Pre-K for All programs using one form. You must use the centralized application form to apply to full-day pre-K programs at DOE district schools, DOE Pre-K Centers, and NYCEECs. However, if you are interested in five-hour or half-day pre-K programs at NYCEECs, or any pre-K programs at charter schools, please contact those sites directly to apply. You cannot apply to five-hour or half-day pre-K programs or to any charter school pre-K programs through the central application.

On your application, you should list up to 12 Pre-K for All programs in the order of your true preference. If it is hard for you to decide how to rank programs, think about which factors matter most to you. Some programs may be near your home or work. The DOE does not provide bus service to pre-K programs except under limited circumstances for students in temporary housing or students in foster care (see pages 8 & 9). Others may have longer hours and provide your child with after-school child care for a fee. Still others may

Although there are many factors that you may want to think about in choosing a pre-K program, some questions to ask may be:

- Does the space feel child friendly?
- How easy is it to reach and speak to the teachers and program director?
- How much experience do the classroom teachers have in early childhood education? (Note that the teachers may change by next year.)
- Does the curriculum seem developmentally appropriate, focusing on learning through play?
- Is there an indoor or outdoor play space?
- How does the staff respond when children are having a rough day?
- How does the program work with families?
- Where do children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) receive related services, such as speech therapy?
- What language supports are available for children and families who speak a language other than English?
- Does the program offer after-school hours? If so, what is the cost?
- How would you get your child to the program in the morning and pick up your child in the afternoon?

include staff members and teachers whom you find warm and inviting. You should list the program you like the most as your first choice.

Once you have decided on the ranking of up to 12 programs, **there are three ways to apply:**

1. Apply online at [MySchools.nyc](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/my-schools);
2. Call (718) 935-2009, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.; or
3. Contact a [Family Welcome Center](#)

The application is available online in ten languages: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. The DOE will also provide interpreters in 200 languages to help families who apply over the phone.

If you have questions about the application process or need more help, you can email the DOE at ESEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov or contact a [Family Welcome Center](#) (see page 15).

Receive an Offer: May 2024

This spring, the DOE will send a Pre-K for All placement offer to each family who applied. If the DOE cannot offer you any of the programs that you listed on your application, the DOE will give you an offer to a program that has seats available. You should accept the offer and register at the school where your child is offered admission. The deadline to accept the offer will be included in your offer letter.

TO REGISTER, you must go to the Pre-K for All Program and bring:

- **Your offer letter;**
- **One proof of your child's age** (such as a birth certificate, passport, or record of baptism); and
- **Two proofs of your address.**

The DOE has created a [registration checklist](#) of documents you'll need to register. For proof of address, you can use:

- A lease, deed, or mortgage statement;
- Gas, electric, water, cable, or property tax bill;
- Rent receipt;
- Official payroll documentation;
- Income tax form;
- Voter registration document;
- Documentation from a government agency;
- Government issued identification (including an IDNYC card);
- Driver's license;
- Membership documents based on residency (e.g., neighborhood residents' association); or
- Evidence of custody of the child.

You *cannot* use a phone bill, credit card bill, or health insurance card.

If you live with another family, you may not have paperwork in your name to prove your address if the lease is in the other family's name. When you go to register at the school you were offered, you may bring an "[Affidavit of Residency](#)" signed, and preferably notarized, by you and the primary leaseholder/tenant stating that you live at that address, along with two other documents confirming your address. Families living in temporary housing are not required to submit documentation in order to register. See page 8 & 9 for additional information.

You do not need to provide proof of citizenship or a Social Security number.

Once you accept the offer, your child is set to attend that school in September as long as the child remains eligible for the seat.¹

¹ For example, if a district school learns that a student's address falls outside of the priority zone and the school does not have space for children outside the zone, the student may lose that placement.

Pre-K Admissions: Late Applications

If you missed the application deadline, you can add your child to the waitlist for programs on [Myschools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov) or call (718) 935-2009.

PRE-K FOR ALL: ADMISSIONS PRIORITIES

Because many district schools, Pre-K Centers, and NYCEECs are not able to admit all students who apply, admissions decisions are based on a list of priorities. For families who list a particular Pre-K for All program anywhere on their application, students in the first priority group for that program will be accepted first, and then offers will be made to the second priority group, and so on, until all seats in that program are filled. If more students apply for a pre-K program within a single priority category than the program can accept, offers are made based on a random selection within the priority group. You can learn more about admissions priorities in the [2024 NYC Public Schools Admissions Guide](#), available in multiple languages at nyc.gov/prek.

Admissions Priorities for NYC DOE District Schools

If you are interested in Pre-K for All programs at **district schools**, you should first determine your **zoned school** and **district**. To find your zoned school and district, go to [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov) or [schoolsearch.schools.nyc](https://www.schoolsearch.schools.nyc.gov), enter your home address, borough, and child's grade ("Pre-K"), and click "Search." You will see the name and contact information for the school that is zoned for your address and your district. You can also get this information by calling 311. Keep in mind that your zoned school may or may not offer pre-K.

Most Pre-K for All programs in zoned district schools accept students in the following order of priority*:

1. Current students who attend the school's 3-K for All program (if one exists);
2. Zoned students who will have a sibling** at the school during the 2024-2025 school year;
3. Other zoned students;
4. In-district students who will have a sibling at the school during the 2024-2025 school year;
5. Out-of-district students who will have a sibling at the school during the 2024-2025 school year;
6. Other students who live in the district;
7. Other students who live outside the district.

* Schools participating in [Diversity in Admissions](#) initiatives may have additional priority categories approved by the DOE to achieve greater diversity in the school's pre-K program.

** A sibling includes a half-sibling, step sibling, and foster sibling of the applicant, who lives in the same household. To get the sibling priority, the sibling must be enrolled in the school during the 2024-2025 school year or enrolled in a District 75 specialized program for the 2024-2025 school year that is co-located in the same school building.

While most children have a zoned school, District 1 (Lower East Side, Manhattan), District 7 (South Bronx), and District 23 (Brownsville, Brooklyn) are non-zoned districts. All schools in these districts are non-zoned schools. Parents in these districts can apply to any school within the district, and their child will have a similar chance of being admitted (though children who attend 3-K at the school and children with siblings at the school get higher priority). In addition, in other districts throughout NYC, there are some schools without a zone called non-zoned schools. Non-zoned schools admit students based on priorities 1 and 4-7 listed above.

In an effort to increase diversity, each school in [District 1](#) gives priority for a percentage of seats to students who qualify for free or reduced lunch, students in temporary housing, and students whose home language is a language other than English. The percentage is based on the background of District 1 applicants.

For zoned schools, students who live in the zone will have the best chance of being admitted. However, some zoned schools have enough pre-K seats to admit students who live outside the zone. Other zoned schools do

WAITLISTS

If you applied to more than one Pre-K for All program on the application, your child will be placed on the waitlist for any programs you listed higher than the Pre-K for All program you were offered. You can accept your offer and remain on the waitlists for programs you ranked higher. If a Pre-K for All program is able to offer you a seat from the waitlist, the program will contact you directly.

not have enough pre-K seats for all zoned students. The online directory at [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov) has information about which priority groups were admitted during last year's application period. While you can apply to any school you want, this information can help you think about how likely it is that your child will be admitted this year.

For example, you may want your child to attend a school that is in your district but is *not* your child's zoned school. The program's page on [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov) may show that the school that you want only had seats for zoned students last year. You should feel free to list this school on your application. If it is your first choice, you should list it as your first choice! However, you may also want to list other schools, Pre-K Centers, or NYCEECs on your application where your child is more likely to get an offer. Listing your zoned school lower down on your application does *not* affect your child's chances of getting admitted to the zoned school if the schools you ranked higher do not have a seat for your child.

How does my child's attendance at a pre-K program at a DOE district school impact kindergarten admissions?

Your child's attendance at a pre-K program at a DOE district school does not guarantee that they can attend the same school for kindergarten for the 2025-2026 school year. You will still need to apply to schools during the kindergarten admissions process when your child is in pre-K. Decisions about which children will receive offers to which schools for kindergarten will be made based on a list of kindergarten admissions priorities.

Attending pre-K at your zoned school will not make your child any more or less likely than any other zoned student to be admitted to the school for kindergarten. However, attending pre-K at a school that is **not** your zoned school may increase your child's chance of being admitted to the same school for kindergarten based on the kindergarten admissions priorities.

For more information about the Kindergarten Admissions process, see AFC's [Guide to Kindergarten Admissions](#).

Admissions Priorities for NYC DOE Pre-K Centers

DOE Pre-K Centers are led and run by DOE staff but, unlike DOE district schools, they offer pre-K and 3-K only. These programs are located in DOE public schools or at separate pre-K sites where all of the students are in pre-K or 3-K. Programs at DOE Pre-K Centers accept students in the following order of priority:

1. Students who currently attend 3-K for All at the Pre-K Center;
2. Students who live in the same district as the Pre-K Center;
3. Students who live outside the district.

Remember: To find your district, go to [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov) or [schoolsearch.schools.nyc](https://www.schoolsearch.schools.nyc.gov), enter your home address, borough, and child's grade, and click "Search." You will see the name and contact information for the school that is zoned for your address and your district. You can also get this information by calling 311.

Admissions Priorities for NYC Early Education Centers (NYCEECs)

Pre-K for All programs in **NYCEECs** (community-based organizations) accept students in the following order of priority:

1. Current students enrolled at the NYCEEC who attend the program for three year olds or 3-K for All (during the 2023-2024 school year);
2. Siblings of current students enrolled at the NYCEEC;
3. Students whose families currently receive free or subsidized social services from the organization operating the NYCEEC;
4. Students who speak a language other than English that the NYCEEC specializes in serving (see page 11);
5. All other students.

As mentioned above, children who attend a NYCEEC during the 2023-2024 school year have first priority to stay at the NYCEEC for pre-K during the 2024-2025 school year. Therefore, some NYCEECs may not have room for new students. If you are interested in applying to a NYCEEC, you may want to contact the NYCEEC first to ask if the NYCEEC thinks it will have seats for students who are not already attending the NYCEEC. The program page on [MySchools.nyc](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/my-schools) can also help tell you whether new students received an offer last year. Either way, you can list the NYCEEC, but may want to list other options on your application too. In addition, some NYCEECs have income or other eligibility requirements because they are also funded through Head Start or child care. The [MySchools.nyc](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/my-schools) directory notes which NYCEECs have these requirements. You should contact these NYCEECs before applying to make sure you meet the eligibility requirements. See page 12 for information about Extended Day and Year programs at NYCEECs.

QUESTIONS ABOUT PRE-K FOR ALL?

Families with questions about the Pre-K for All admissions process can contact the **DOE's Pre-K Admissions team** at ESenrollment@schools.nyc.gov or (718) 935-2009.

One of the benefits of applying to a NYCEEC is that these programs may offer longer hours than programs at district schools. However, keep in mind that you may have to pay a fee for these longer hours.

Finding open seats after the Pre-K for All admissions process ends

Some Pre-K for All programs may have seats available after the application period has ended and after the new school year has started. You can check [nyc.gov/prek](https://www.nyc.gov/prek) for updates after the application period. Additionally, families can:

1. Call 311 or (718) 935-2009; or
2. Contact programs directly; or
3. Visit a [Family Welcome Center](#) (see page 15).

3-K FOR ALL PROGRAMS

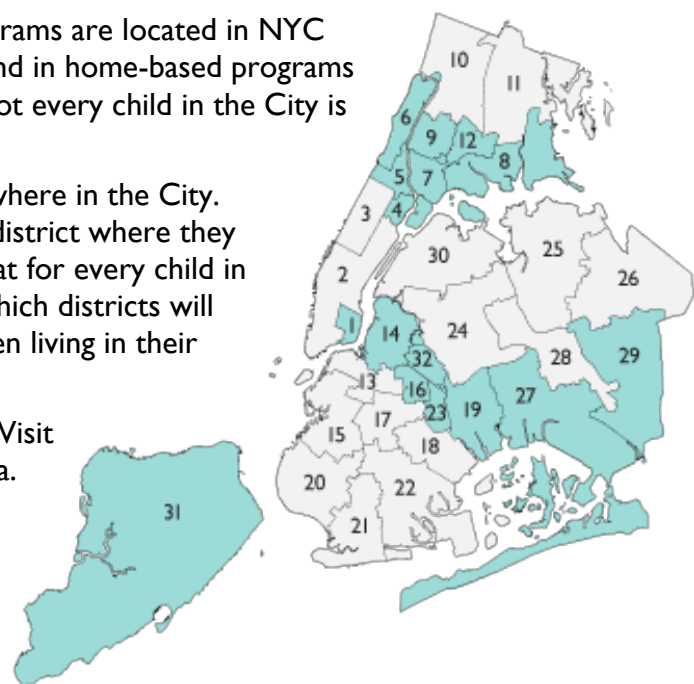
3-K for All programs are free full-day preschool programs for children who are three years old. A child is eligible to attend a 3-K for All class in September of the year in which they turn three years old. For the 2024-2025 school year, children are eligible if they were born in 2021.

Like Pre-K for All, the DOE runs 3-K for All. 3-K for All programs are located in NYC DOE district schools, NYC DOE Pre-K Centers, NYCEECs and in home-based programs known as Family Child Care programs. Unlike Pre-K for All, not every child in the City is guaranteed a seat.

Families of children born in 2021 can apply for a 3-K seat anywhere in the City. Children have priority to attend a 3-K for All program in the district where they live. However, only certain school districts can guarantee a seat for every child in their district who applies. The map at right shows, in green, which districts will guarantee a 3-K seat for the 2024-2025 school year for children living in their district.

Other districts will offer seats to as many families as possible. Visit [nyc.gov/3K](https://www.nyc.gov/3K) for the latest information on programs in your area.

You can find your school district and search for 3-K for All programs using [MySchools.nyc](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/my-schools) and [schoolsearch.schools.nyc](https://www.schoolsearch.schools.nyc.gov). You can also contact programs directly to learn about tours and open houses.



3-K FOR ALL: ADMISSIONS PROCESS

You can apply to 3-K for All programs at DOE district schools, DOE Pre-K Centers, NYCEECs and Family Child Care programs using one application form. All families of children born in 2021 can participate in the 3-K admissions process, including families of students with disabilities, Emergent Multilingual Learners, and students in temporary housing.

Applications for students starting 3-K in fall 2024 will be open through March 1, 2024. The DOE's application process allows you to apply to up to 12 full-day (6 hour, 20 minutes) 3-K for All programs using one form. You can update your application at any time before the deadline. Admission is not first-come, first-served. All applications received by the deadline will be treated the same, according to admissions priorities.

You must use the centralized application form to apply to 3-K programs at DOE district schools, DOE Pre-K Centers, NYCEECs and Family Child Care programs.

Once you have decided on the ranking of up to 12 programs, there are three ways to apply:

1. Apply online at [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov);
2. Call (718) 935-2009, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.; **or**
3. Visit a [Family Welcome Center](#).

The application is available online in ten languages: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. The DOE will also provide interpreters in 200 languages to help families who apply over the phone.

If you need help, please contact your [Family Welcome Center](#) (see page 15) or email the DOE at ESEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov.

3-K FOR ALL: ADMISSIONS PRIORITIES

Because there are limited seats available, not all children born in 2021 will be able to attend a 3-K for All Program. Even in school districts that guarantee a seat, programs may not be able to accept every child that applies. Admissions decisions are based on a list of priorities explained below. For families who list a particular 3-K for All program anywhere on their application, students in the first priority group for that location will be accepted first, and then offers will be made to the second priority group, and so on, until all seats in that program are filled. If more students apply for a 3-K program within a single priority category than the program can accept, offers are made based on a random selection within the priority group.

If you are interested in 3-K for All programs at **district schools**, you should first determine your **zoned school** and **district**. To find your zoned school and district, go to [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov) or [schoolsearch.schools.nyc](https://www.schoolsearch.schools.nyc.gov) and enter your home address. You will see the name and contact information for the school that is zoned for your address and your district. You can also get this information by calling 311. Keep in mind that your zoned school and your district may or may not offer 3-K.

Most 3-K for All programs in zoned district schools accept students in the following order of priority:

1. Zoned students who will have a sibling* at the school during the 2024-2025 school year;
2. Other zoned students;
3. In-district students who will have a sibling at the school during the 2024-2025 school year;
4. Out-of-district students with a sibling at the school during the 2024-2025 school year;
5. Other students who live in the district;
6. Other students who live outside the district.

** A sibling includes a half-sibling, stepsibling, and foster sibling of the applicant, who lives in the same household. To get the sibling priority, the sibling must be enrolled in the school (including the school's Pre-K program) during the 2024-2025 school year or enrolled in a District 75 specialized program for the 2024-2025 school year that is co-located in the same school building.*

While most children have a zoned school, District 1, District 7 and District 23 are non-zoned districts. All schools in these districts are non-zoned schools. Families who live in these districts have priority to all schools in that district. In addition, in other districts throughout NYC, there are some schools without a zone called non-zoned schools. Non-zoned schools in choice districts and throughout NYC admit students based on priorities 3-6 listed above.

DOE Pre-K Centers accept students in the following order of priority:

1. Students who live in the same district as the Pre-K Center and will have a sibling at the Center during the 2024-25 school year;
2. Students who live outside the district and will have a sibling at the Center during the 2024-2025 school year;
3. Other students who live in the same district as the Pre-K Center;
4. Students who live outside the district.

3-K for All programs in NYCEECs (community-based organizations) accept students in the following order of priority:

1. Current students enrolled at the NYCEEC;
2. Siblings of current students enrolled at the NYCEEC;
3. Students whose families currently receive free or subsidized social services from the organization operating the NYCEEC;
4. Students who speak a language other than English that the NYCEEC specializes in serving (see page 11);
5. All other students living in the district;
6. All other students living outside the district.

Some NYCEECs have income or other eligibility requirements because they are also funded through Head Start or child care. [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov/) notes which NYCEECs have these requirements. You should contact these NYCEECs before applying to make sure you meet the eligibility requirements. See page 12 for information about Extended Day and Year Programs.

For individual 3-K programs, additional priorities may be added to achieve greater diversity in the student body. You can learn more about admissions priorities in the [2024 NYC Public Schools Admissions Guide](#), available in multiple languages at nyc.gov/3K.

Receive an Offer: May 2024

This spring, the DOE will mail a results letter to all families who applied. Families who receive an offer to a 3-K for All program should accept the offer and register at the program where your child is offered admission. Accept the offer by the date in your offer letter to reserve your child's seat for September. For more information on how to register for a program, see the Pre-K for All section (page 3).

ADDITIONAL RIGHTS FOR PRESCHOOLERS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING & CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Pre-K and 3-K application and enrollment

Families living in temporary housing, such as a shelter, can and should participate in the Pre-K for All and 3-K for All admissions processes. You can determine your zoned school by entering your temporary address at [schoolsearch.schools.nyc](https://schoolsearch.schools.nyc.gov/) and [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov/) or calling 311.

When families go to **register**, if they are unable to provide two proofs of address, they should let the school know that they are living in temporary housing. Families living in temporary housing are not required to submit

documents in order to register. If the family runs into any difficulty, they can contact their borough's [Regional Manager](#) for Students in Temporary Housing. See page 16 for their contact information.

Once the school year starts, if there are **open seats** in a Pre-K for All or 3-K program, children in temporary housing have the right to **immediate enrollment**. This means that the program must enroll the child right away, even if the family cannot provide the documents normally necessary for enrollment, such as birth certificates, proof of residency, or immunizations.

Transportation to Pre-K and 3-K programs

Children in temporary housing also have the right to transportation. The DOE will give parents **MetroCards** to bring their children to and from Pre-K for All and 3-K programs at DOE district schools, DOE Pre-K Centers, NYCEECS, Family Child Care, and charter schools. All families of children in temporary housing can request MetroCards from their child's DOE preschool program or the DOE's Students in Temporary Housing [Regional Managers](#). See page 16 for the DOE's Regional Manager's contact information.

In some cases, children in temporary housing can get busing to and from their 3-K or pre-K program if there is an appropriate route available. To request busing, families in temporary housing should complete the [transportation exception form](#) or contact the Students in Temporary Housing Regional Manager and ask that they complete and submit a transportation request form.

Transportation (MetroCards or busing if an appropriate route is available) is also available for the remainder of the school year after a child who was homeless becomes permanently housed.

Making space for preschoolers in temporary housing when pre-K programs are full

Typically, pre-K classes have up to 18 students with at least two adults (usually one teacher and one paraprofessional). If families find that pre-K programs near them are **full** or have **long waiting lists**, Pre-K for All programs may take several steps to help enroll a child living in temporary housing. In order to enroll a 19th or 20th student, the pre-K class must have at least three staff members (typically one teacher and two paraprofessionals). In order to enroll a 21st student, Pre-K for All programs can request a class-size variance to add a child living in temporary housing. Please note that the class-size variance process can also be used to add a child with a disability to a class that already has 20 students.

If you need help enrolling a child who is living in temporary housing in pre-K or 3-K or requesting transportation to the program, please email ProjectLIT@advocatesforchildren.org or call the AFC's Helpline (see page 16).

For more resources to assist preschoolers in temporary housing, you can visit the DOE's website at schools.nyc.gov/STH.

Children in Foster Care

Children in foster care also have additional rights regarding enrollment and transportation. Children in foster care have the right to **immediate enrollment** during the school year to a Pre-K for All or 3-K program with **open seats**. This means that the program must enroll the child right away, even if the family cannot provide the documents normally necessary for enrollment, such as birth certificates, proof of residency, or immunizations. For assistance with enrollment, you can contact the [Foster Care Coordinator](#) in your borough.

Children in foster care who attend a 3-K or Pre-K have the right to transportation and parents or guardians can receive MetroCards to accompany the child to and from school. In limited circumstances, Pre-K students may qualify for busing if they need it in order to stay in their program when they are placed in foster care or change foster homes. Speak to your child's foster care agency or attorney for more information.

ADDITIONAL RIGHTS FOR PRESCHOOLERS WITH DISABILITIES

Pre-K and 3-K application and placement process

All families with age-eligible children, including preschoolers with disabilities, may apply to Pre-K for All and 3-K programs for the 2024-2025 school year.

Preschool students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) that recommend Special Education Itinerant Teacher (SEIT) services and/or related services only can receive these recommended services at a pre-K or 3-K program and should apply through the pre-K or 3-K application process. Note: Due to class ratio requirements, children whose IEPs recommend SEIT and/or related services only may not be able to enroll in pre-K or 3-K programs that have only “special classes in an integrated setting.” You will find a note under these programs online at [MySchools.nyc](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/my-schools) stating that you should contact the program before applying if your child has an IEP that recommends SEIT and/or related services.

The Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) is responsible for finding an appropriate placement for children whose IEPs recommend a special class or special class in an integrated setting, and the pre-K and 3-K application processes do not apply to these settings. Children with an IEP recommending a special class or a special class in an integrated setting also have the right to busing. Contact EarlyChildhoodBusing@schools.nyc.gov if transportation is not in place.

Your child’s IEP recommendation may change before the 2024-2025 school year. Therefore, if you have any interest in having your child attend a Pre-K for All or 3-K program, we encourage you to apply to reserve a seat for your child, regardless of your child’s current IEP recommendation.

If your child does not yet have an IEP and you want the Department of Education to evaluate your child to see if your preschooler needs special education services, you should write a letter to your local [Committee on Preschool Special Education \(CPSE\)](#) office stating that you want your child to receive preschool special education evaluations. See page 15 for the contact information for each CPSE office. For more information on preschool special education services, see AFC’s [Guide to Preschool Special Education](#).

If your child needs a [Section 504 accommodations](#) plan due to your child’s disability, you should contact the pre-K or 3-K program directly and write a letter asking for a Section 504 plan. For example, if your child has diabetes and needs a staff member to inject insulin or if your child has food allergies and needs to avoid certain foods, you may want to ask for a Section 504 plan.

If your child needs an accessible building, such as a building without steps, due to your child’s disability, you can find out which DOE district schools and Pre-K Centers are accessible on [MySchools.nyc](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/my-schools) and [schools.nyc.gov/BuildingAccessibility](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/BuildingAccessibility). You must call each NYCEEC to find out if it is accessible. If your child does not receive an accessible placement through the application process, the DOE will provide an accessible placement after offers are made. Families seeking help with the admissions process can reach out to the DOE at accessibleadmissions@schools.nyc.gov and ESEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov.

The CPSE is responsible for finding an accessible placement if your child’s IEP recommends a special class or special class in an integrated setting. You should contact the CPSE Administrator assigned to your child’s case if you have questions about your child’s placement.

Making space for preschoolers with disabilities when pre-K programs are full

If families find that pre-K programs near them are **full** or have **long waiting lists**, 3-K and Pre-K for All programs may take several steps to help enroll a child with a disability. Please see page 9 above for more

information on how pre-K programs can make space for additional students, including preschoolers with disabilities, through the class-size variance process.

If you need help enrolling a child in pre-K or 3-K who has a disability or getting a Section 504 plan or IEP, please contact AFC's Helpline, Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., at (866) 427-6033.

PRE-K PROGRAMS FOR EMERGENT MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

The DOE provides some specific programs and supports for Emergent Multilingual Learners (EMLs), children who are learning a language other than English at home. These supports can help EMLs develop the language skills needed to do well in school. Below you will find information about the language options available to 3-K and pre-K students.

Dual Language (DL)

Dual Language programs provide instruction in English and another language, with the goal of helping all students to learn both languages. These programs support students whose home language is not English in developing English language skills and students whose home language is English in learning a second language. Families can search for [Dual Language](#) programs by language by visiting [MySchools.nyc](#) and using the filters for Dual Language programs. Families who wish to apply to both the DL and general pre-K classes at a school should list each option separately on their applications.

Enhanced Language Support (ELS)

Hundreds of 3-K and pre-K programs at NYCEECs provide Enhanced Language Support (ELS) programs. ELS programs offer supports to enhance language development in certain target home languages spoken by EMLs. For example, the classroom may have schedules, labels, music, and books in English and in the target home language spoken by students. Enhanced Language Support programs tailor their supports to EMLs who speak particular home languages, so students who speak the home languages that the NYCEECs specialize in serving will receive some admissions priority. Families can find which NYCEECs offer ELS programs—and in which languages—by searching [MySchools.nyc](#) and using the filters for a “NYC Early Education Center” and language supports. To learn more about the specific features of any given ELS program, families should contact each NYCEEC directly.

Identifying students prioritized for Dual Language or Enhanced Language Support

If you apply to a DL and/or ELS program, you will be asked to provide your child's primary language spoken at home. Please note that your child's primary language may be used to determine their priority for placement in these programs.

Additional language support options

Schools, Pre-K Centers, and NYCEECs may have other pre-K and 3-K options for EMLs. Please contact pre-K and 3-K programs directly for more information about available services and programs that meet the specific language needs of your child.

For more information about Dual Language programs or programs with Enhanced Language Supports, email prekduallanguage@schools.nyc.gov or call 311.

EXTENDED DAY AND YEAR PROGRAMS

The DOE offers free and low-cost early childhood education programs at hundreds of centers throughout the City that are open year round and offer extended hours (up to 10 hours a day) of care and education.

Infant and Toddler Programs

The DOE's Extended Day and Year Infant and Toddler programs serve children from six weeks old to age three. Children may be eligible for these programs if their parents receive public assistance, have low incomes and need child care because of their jobs or education, have active cases with the City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS) or other preventive service agencies, are living in temporary housing, or are receiving domestic violence services. Eligibility can be complicated, and some parents need to pay a fee based on a sliding scale. You can learn more at schools.nyc.gov/InfantsToddlers. To see if you are eligible and get help finding a placement, you can call 311, email CCapplication@schools.nyc.gov, contact a [Family Welcome Center](#) or call a Child Care Resource and Referral agency (see pages 15 & 16). You can also learn more and apply for child care at MyCity.nyc.gov.

Head Start

The DOE also runs programs with Head Start seats for children from age three until they enter kindergarten. Children are eligible for Head Start if their families have low incomes or if they are in foster care or living in temporary housing. For more information about Head Start eligibility, see page 13.

3-K and Pre-K for All

Some of the DOE's 3-K and Pre-K for All programs are Extended Day and Year programs that offer services year-round for up to 10 hours a day. Parents of children born in 2021 and 2020 who are interested in these programs should apply through the DOE's 3-K and Pre-K for All central application (see pages 2-9 above for details) for seats for the 2024-2025 school year. Families can search for "Extended Day/Year" and "Head Start" in the online directory. If families apply to these programs using the DOE's online application, the application will provide the eligibility criteria and ask the family if they think they are eligible. If the family clicks "No," the family will not be able to apply to Extended Day and Year programs. If the family clicks "Yes," the 3-K or Pre-K site will ask the family to verify their eligibility during registration. Please note that some families may need to pay a fee.

To find Extended Day and Year seats for the 2023-2024 year, you should contact programs directly. For help finding a program, you can also contact a [Family Welcome Center](#) (see page 15) or call a Child Care Resource and Referral agency (see page 14).

Children with disabilities

All Infant and Toddler, Extended Day and Year programs, and Head Start programs serve children with delays or disabilities. Children with Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) or Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) can receive a wide variety of services at these programs. Preschool students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) that recommend Special Education Itinerant Teacher (SEIT) services and/or related services can receive these recommended services at an Extended Day and Year or Head Start program.

The Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) is responsible for finding an appropriate placement for children whose IEPs recommend a special class or special class in an integrated setting. However, preschool students whose IEPs recommend a full-day (5 hour) or half-day special class or special class in an integrated setting may participate in an Extended Day and Year program or Head Start program for the rest of the day.

Children from Immigrant Families

The [Child Care assistance application](#) that parents must submit to apply for Infant & Toddler Programs and Extended Day and Year programs includes a question about the child’s immigration status. Families are asked to confirm that the child who will be attending the program is a United States citizen or has satisfactory immigration status and to provide proof. The application does not ask about immigration status of the parents or other members of the household.

Families seeking to enroll their child in a Head Start seat or in a standard day 3-K or Pre-K for All class do not need to answer the immigration status question or provide proof of status. Programs that are located in district schools and DOE Pre-K centers, as well as some community-based organizations, will not ask you about your child’s immigration status. For more information, see the “Enrollment for Pre-K Extended Day and Year Seats and Head Start Seats” section of the DOE website at nyc.gov/PreK.

If your family is not eligible for the Infant and Toddler and Extended Day and Year 3-K and Pre-K programs because of your child’s immigration status, you may be eligible for child care through Promise NYC. **Promise NYC** is a program for New York City families that will cover the cost of child care at a provider of your choice. The program can also cover the cost of afterschool programs for older children. To be eligible, you must be the parent or legal guardian of a child between the ages of 6 weeks to 13 years old who is undocumented or does not have qualified immigration status, and your household income must be less than three times the [federal poverty level](#) (see below).

To learn more and apply for assistance, see the contact information on page 14 for the agency in your area.

HEAD START PROGRAMS

Head Start is a year-round program that supports the academic, mental, social, and emotional development of children from age three until they enter kindergarten. In addition to educational services, programs provide children and their families with health, nutrition, social, and other services.

Children whose families’ income is below [the federal poverty guidelines](#) are eligible. Please refer to the poverty guidelines in this chart to determine your family’s income eligibility. Head Start programs may have space for some children whose families’ income is above the federal poverty guidelines. Contact the Head Start program to find out.

Household Size	Maximum Income Level (Per Year)
1	\$15,060
2	\$20,440
3	\$25,820
4	\$31,200
5	\$36,580
6	\$41,960
7	\$47,340
8	\$52,720

Children in foster care, children living in temporary housing, and children in families receiving public assistance (e.g., Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or Supplemental Security Income) are eligible for Head Start, regardless of family income. Children living in temporary housing also receive priority enrollment.

Finding open Head Start seats

If you would like to apply to a Head Start program, you should contact programs directly to set up a time to apply and enroll your child. To find Head Start programs near you, enter your address in the [Head Start Center Locator](#). Many Head Start programs are also DOE 3-K and pre-K programs, and parents with children born in 2020 should apply for September 2024 placement through the DOE’s Pre-K for All application process (see pages 2-6) or through the DOE’s 3-K application for children born in 2021 by March 1st. After the application deadlines, parents of children born in 2020 and 2021 should contact Head Start programs directly. To find seats for the 2023-2024 year, you should contact Head Start programs directly. You can also contact a Child Care Resource and Referral agency. See below.

CONTACT INFORMATION

CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCIES

For help finding early childhood education programs for your child, you can contact the **New York City Child Care Resource and Referral Consortium**, toll-free at **(888) 469-5999**. These centers can help you find Head Start, child care, 3-K and Pre-K for All programs. Child care specialists will ask you for information about the type of program you need and your children's ages. Then, they will offer a list of programs. You will need to contact the programs to see if they have open seats. For more information, visit www.nycchildcareconsortium.org.

You can also contact a Child Care Resource and Referral agency directly:

Child Development Support Corporation

Tel: (718) 398-6738; (718) 398-2050

Website: <https://cdscnyc.org>

Chinese-American Planning Council

Tel: (212) 941-1828 (in English) or (212) 792-4597
(in Chinese)

Email: childcare@cpc-nyc.org

Website: <https://childcarecpc.org>

The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc.

Tel: (212) 206-1090

Email: info@chcfinc.org

Website: <https://www.chcfinc.org>

Day Care Council of New York, Inc.

Tel: (212) 206-7818

Email: info@dccnyinc.org

Website: <https://www.dccnyinc.org>

PROMISE NYC AGENCIES

Contact the Promise NYC agency in your area to learn more and apply for assistance:

Brooklyn:

[Center for Family Life](#)

443 39th Street, Brooklyn NY 11232
(718) 438-9500

Manhattan & Bronx:

[Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation](#) (NMIC)

45 Wadsworth Avenue, New York, NY 10033
Call: Tuesdays 10 AM-12 PM at (929)-415-3999
Email: promisenyc@nmic.org

Queens:

[Chinese-American Planning Council](#) (CPC)

165 Eldridge Street, New York, NY 10002
Complete an [online survey](#)
Email: rcalabretta@cpc-nyc.org
WhatsApp: (934) 223-9652.

Staten Island

[La Colmena](#)

774 Port Richmond Ave, Staten Island, NY 10302
Complete an online survey in [English](#) or [Spanish](#)
Call: (718) 442-7700
Email: judith@lacolmenanyc.org

DOE FAMILY WELCOME CENTERS

BOROUGH	DISTRICTS SERVED	EMAIL ADDRESS	LOCATION
Bronx	7, 9, 10	FordhamFWC@schools.nyc.gov	One Fordham Plaza, 7 th Floor
Bronx	8, 11, 12	ZeregaFWC@schools.nyc.gov	1230 Zerega Ave., Rm. 24
Brooklyn	13, 14, 15, 16	ParkPlaceFWC@schools.nyc.gov	355 Park Place
Brooklyn	17, 18, 22	OceanFWC@schools.nyc.gov	1780 Ocean Ave., 3 rd Floor
Brooklyn	20, 21	89thFWC@schools.nyc.gov	415 89 th St., 5 th Floor
Brooklyn	19, 23, 32	StMarksFWC@schools.nyc.gov	1665 St. Mark's Ave., Rm. 116
Manhattan	1, 2, 4	333FWC@schools.nyc.gov	333 7 th Avenue, 12 th Floor
Manhattan	3, 5, 6	MorningsideFWC@schools.nyc.gov	123 Morningside Drive, Room 235
Queens	24, 30	QueensPlazaNFWC@schools.nyc.gov	28-11 Queens Plaza North, 3 rd Fl.
Queens	25, 26	LindenFWC@schools.nyc.gov	30-48 Linden Pl., 2 nd Floor
Queens	27, 28, 29	SutphinFWC@schools.nyc.gov	90-27 Sutphin Blvd., 1 st Floor
Staten Island	31	PetridesFWC@schools.nyc.gov	715 Ocean Terrace, Building A

Visit schools.nyc.gov/FWC for information on office hours and instructions for visiting.

DOE COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION (Including Committees on Preschool Special Education)

REGION	LOCATION	DISTRICTS	EMAIL ADDRESS
1	1 Fordham Plaza, 7th Floor Bronx, New York 10458	7, 9, 10	CPSE1support@schools.nyc.gov CSE1@schools.nyc.gov
2	3450 E. Tremont Avenue, 2nd Floor Bronx, New York 10465	8, 11, 12	CPSE2support@schools.nyc.gov CSE2@schools.nyc.gov
3	30-48 Linden Place Flushing, New York 11354	25, 26	CPSE3support@schools.nyc.gov CSE3@schools.nyc.gov
	90-27 Sutphin Boulevard Jamaica, New York 11435	28, 29	
4	28-11 Queens Plaza North, 5th Floor Long Island City, New York 11101	24, 30	CPSE4support@schools.nyc.gov CSE4@schools.nyc.gov
	82-01 Rockaway Boulevard, 2nd Floor Ozone Park, New York 11416	27	
5	1665 St. Marks Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11233	19, 23, 32	CPSE5support@schools.nyc.gov CSE5@schools.nyc.gov
6	5619 Flatlands Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11234	17, 18, 22	CPSE6support@schools.nyc.gov CSE6@schools.nyc.gov

7	415 89th Street Brooklyn, New York 11209	20, 21	CPSE7BKsupport@schools.nyc.gov CPSE7Slsupport@schools.nyc.gov CSE7@schools.nyc.gov
	715 Ocean Terrace, Building A Staten Island, New York 10301	31	
8	131 Livingston Street, 4th Floor Brooklyn, New York 11201	13, 14, 15, 16	CPSE8support@schools.nyc.gov CSE8@schools.nyc.gov
9	333 Seventh Avenue, 4th Floor New York, New York 10001	1, 2, 4	CPSE9support@schools.nyc.gov CSE9@schools.nyc.gov
10	388 West 125th Street New York, New York 10027	3, 5, 6	CPSE10support@schools.nyc.gov CSE10@schools.nyc.gov

Visit <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/special-education/help/committees-on-special-education> for additional contact information.

STUDENTS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING REGIONAL MANAGERS

OFFICE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT BOROUGH CENTER LOCATION & DISTRICT			STH REGIONAL MANAGER	PHONE NUMBER & EMAIL ADDRESS
Bronx	I Fordham Plaza, Rm. 816 Bronx, NY 10458	7	Cristine Figueroa Madeline Warden	CFiguroa20@schools.nyc.gov MWarden2@schools.nyc.gov
Bronx	I Fordham Plaza, Rm. 816 Bronx, NY 10458	8	Joyln Lisojo-Englenton	JLisojo@schools.nyc.gov
Bronx	I Fordham Plaza, Rm. 816 Bronx, NY 10458	9	Shaquieta Boyd Madeline Warden	(718) 741-7049 SBoyd5@schools.nyc.gov MWarden2@schools.nyc.gov
Bronx	I Fordham Plaza, Rm. 816 Bronx, NY 10458	10	Stephanie Dyer	(718) 741-7783 SDyer@schools.nyc.gov
Bronx	I Fordham Plaza, Rm. 816 Bronx, NY 10458	11	Cristine Figueroa Stephanie Dyer	CFiguroa20@schools.nyc.gov (718) 741-7783 SDyer@schools.nyc.gov
Bronx	I Fordham Plaza, Rm. 816 Bronx, NY 10458	12	Bak Harris	646-416-0364 BHarris6@schools.nyc.gov
Brooklyn	131 Livingston St., Rm. 408 Brooklyn, NY 11201	13, 16	Emily Mann	EMann4@schools.nyc.gov
Brooklyn	1780 Ocean Avenue, Rm. 1B Brooklyn, NY 11230	14, 15, 17, 18	Charmaine Gaynor	CGaynor@schools.nyc.gov
Brooklyn	131 Livingston St., 4th Fl. Brooklyn, NY 11201	23	Sydore Thompson	(718) 935-4054 SThompson14@schools.nyc.gov
Brooklyn	1780 Ocean Ave., Rm. 1 Brooklyn, NY 11230	19, 20	Lucia Figueras	(646) 995-0121 LFigueras@schools.nyc.gov
Brooklyn	1780 Ocean Ave., Rm. 1B Brooklyn, NY 11230	21, 22	Fahmeeda Saleem	(718) 758-7635 FSaleem@schools.nyc.gov
Staten Island	1780 Ocean Ave., Rm. 1B	31	Fahmeeda Saleem	(718) 758-7635 FSaleem@schools.nyc.gov
Manhattan	333 7th Avenue, 7 th Fl. New York, NY 10001	1	Jessica Onobie	JOnobie@schools.nyc.gov
Manhattan	333 7th Avenue, 7 th Fl. New York, NY 10001	2, 3	Iris Gersten	(917) 339-1718 IGersten@schools.nyc.gov
Manhattan	333 7th Avenue, 7 th Fl. New York, NY 10001	4	Cecilio (Bo) Diaz	917-339-1698 CDiaz@schools.nyc.gov

Manhattan	333 7th Avenue, 7 th Fl. New York, NY 10001	5, 6	D'Asia Woods	DWoods9@schools.nyc.gov
Queens	333 7th Avenue, 7 th Fl. New York, NY 10001	24	D'Asia Woods	DWoods9@schools.nyc.gov
Queens	333 7th Avenue, 7 th Fl. New York, NY 10001	25, 30	Cecilio (Bo) Diaz	(917) 339-1698 CDiaz@schools.nyc.gov
Queens	131 Livingston St., Rm. 408 Brooklyn, NY 11201	26, 29	Emily Mann	EMann4@schools.nyc.gov
Queens	131 Livingston Street, 4 th Fl. Brooklyn, NY 11201	28	Sydone Thompson	(718) 935-4054 SThompson14@schools.nyc.gov
Queens	1780 Ocean Ave., Rm. 1B Brooklyn, NY 11230	27	Fahmeeda Saleem	(718) 758-7635 FSaleem@schools.nyc.gov
Queens	333 7th Avenue, 7 th Fl. New York, NY 10001	30	Cecilio (Bo) Diaz	917-339-1698 CDiaz@schools.nyc.gov

Learn more at schools.nyc.gov/STH or email STHInfo@schools.nyc.gov for help reaching the right Regional Manager.

Advocates for Children of New York, Inc.

151 West 30th Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10001

Jill Chaifetz Education Helpline: 1-866-427-6033 (toll free), Monday—Thursday, 10am—4pm

www.advocatesforchildren.org

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