

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
Office of Early Childhood Education
2016-2017

PreK FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	
QUESTION	ANSWER
<i>How much does it cost?</i>	<i>There is no cost.</i>
<i>What are the days and hours?</i>	Hours may vary, depending on location, but general hours are: Monday – Thursday, 8:30-3:00 Friday, 8:30-12:30
<i>Will my child be given lunch?</i>	Breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack will be offered to your child at no cost to you. This service is provided by the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).
<i>Is there school bus service?</i>	Transportation services through the School District are not provided for PreK children.
<i>Will I be able to meet my child's teacher and see his/her classroom before the first day of school?</i>	Yes, parents of newly enrolled children will have this opportunity during an orientation meeting that is scheduled between the parent and teacher.
<i>Do parents have to complete a new preschool application if the child is returning to the program for a 2nd year?</i>	No, parents do not have to complete a new application. For students in Head Start and Bright Futures, a current updated health exam, a dental exam and immunizations are required. Additionally, for students in Bright Futures, a new set of CACFP meal forms are also required.
<i>What are the ages of preschool children?</i>	A child must be at least 3 years old on or before September 1 st of the year they wish to enroll in PreK. If a child turns 5 years old on or before September 1 st , they should be enrolled in kindergarten. If a child turns 5 years old on or after September 2 nd , they are age-eligible for PreK.
<i>How do I register my child?</i>	To register your child, complete a PreK application and submit all required documents. Details are inside the application. Applications are available in PreK locations, on the School District's website at www.philasd.org/prek , or by calling 215-400-4270 and following the prompts to request an application to be mailed. All PreK applications are submitted to 440 N. Broad St., Suite 170. Applications are accepted year-round.
<i>Are uniforms required?</i>	Uniforms are not a mandatory requirement for PreK; however, some principals require the PreK children to wear the school's uniform colors. Uniform information will be discussed at parent orientation.
<i>Can I register my child at the Education Center, 440 N. Broad St.?</i>	Yes, please bring: your child's birth certificate, your child's immunization record or Health Assessment, your child's health insurance card, current proof of your family's earned and unearned gross income, current proof of your address, your current photo ID. You will also be asked to participate in an interview.
<i>When will I know if my child is accepted for admission to the program?</i>	Acceptance and waiting-list letters are mailed within four (4) weeks following the processing of the applications.
<i>I completed an application for my child but didn't receive an acceptance or waiting list letter.</i>	Parents can call 215-400-4270 and follow the prompts for assistance.
<i>How long can my child stay on the wait list?</i>	It is possible for a child to remain on the waiting-list for the entire school year. Admitting a waiting-list child to PreK is dependent on another child leaving the PreK program at a particular location. When an opening occurs, the next family on the waiting-list for that particular location is called.

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What are the eligibility requirements?	A child must meet the above age requirement, must reside in Philadelphia, PA, and the family must be income-eligible.			
	For Head Start: See the 2016 Federal Head Start Poverty Guidelines for family size below.			
	For Bright Futures: The family's annual gross income cannot exceed 300% of the 2016 Poverty Guideline for their family size.			
	2016 Poverty Guideline for the 48 Contiguous States and D.C. Maximum Income for Head Start Eligibility		300% of the 2016 Poverty Guideline Maximum Income for Bright Futures Pre-K Counts Eligibility	
	Family Size	Poverty Guideline	Family Size	300% of Poverty Guideline
	1	\$11,880	1	\$35,640
	2	\$16,020	2	\$48,060
	3	\$20,160	3	\$60,480
	4	\$24,300	4	\$72,900
	5	\$28,440	5	\$85,320
6	\$32,580	6	\$97,740	
7+	Add \$4160 for each person.	7+	Add \$12,480 for each person.	
Who can I contact for services?	Please contact these representatives in the Office of Early Childhood Education			
	Susan Maraschiello	Bright Futures	smaraschiello@philasd.org	215-400-5757
	Abigail McMahon	Head Start	amcmahon2@philasd.org	215-400-4270
	Lawanna Lockhart	Head Start	lbullock@philasd.org	215-400-4270

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
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KINDERGARTEN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION	ANSWER
<i>What is the first day of school for kindergarten children?</i>	The first day of school for Kindergarten students is a week later than the rest of the District. During that week, teachers will meet with families to conduct orientations/interviews and complete the Early Childhood Experiences Interview. The teacher at the school where the kindergarten student is registered will call the parent to set up an interview date. Please see the District calendar for specific dates at http://www.philasd.org .
<i>Where do families go to apply for kindergarten?</i>	In general, a student is to enroll in the school within the boundary lines of legal residence of the parent or legal guardian. Parents/guardians go to their neighborhood school to register their child. Parents can call 215-400-4290 to find out which school is their neighborhood school or go to School Finder at www.philasd.org .
<i>How old must my child be to attend kindergarten?</i>	A child must be 5 years old by September 1 st of the year they wish to enroll in Kindergarten. If a child turns 5 years old on September 2 nd they must register for a Pre-kindergarten program. The School District of Philadelphia does not test for early admission to kindergarten under any circumstances.
<i>What are the eligibility requirements for kindergarten?</i>	A child must meet the age requirement of 5 years old by September 1 st of the year in which they wish to enroll.
<i>How do I register my child for kindergarten?</i>	<p>Visit your neighborhood school. Be sure to bring:</p> <p>A. Proof of child's age (One of the following is required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child's original birth certificate • Notarized copy of the child's birth certificate • Child's valid passport • Original baptismal certificate indicating the child's date of birth • Copy of the record of baptism – notarized or duly certified and showing the date of birth • Notarized statement from the parents or another relative indicating the date of birth • Prior school records indicating the date of birth <p>B. The child's current Immunization Record</p> <p>C. Parent/Legal Guardianship Identification (One of the following is required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Drivers License/ Non-Drivers license • Valid Federal, State or Municipal employment photo identification • Passport <p>D. Proof of Address (Two of the following is required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deed • Mortgage settlement sheet • Current utility bill (gas, electric, cable, telephone) • Recent property tax bill • Valid driver's license or change of address card with your current address • Letter from Social Security Office with current address • Letter from Public Assistance Office with current address • Foster care/childcare and DHS letters are acceptable for registration when a student is in the care of a foster/child care agency • Original lease with name(s) of parents/legal guardians and children

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valid DOT identification card • Current credit card bill • Recent vehicle registration • Voter Registration Card showing current address • Recent bank statement with current address • IRS Statement or other wage and tax statements e.g., W2, 1040, 1099 • Recent Employer Pay Stub showing current address • Shelter placement or residency letters are acceptable for homeless students • Signed property sales agreement, followed by original copy of settlement papers within 45 calendar days of settlement <p><i>D.1- Homeless Youth and Families</i> Homeless youth are entitled to immediate enrollments and their families are not required to prove residency regarding school enrollment. Included within the definition of homeless children and youth are those who are "awaiting foster care placement" and "unaccompanied homeless youth." These students should be enrolled without delay, in the district where they are presently residing, or continue their education in the district of prior attendance. See the McKinney-Vento Act, 42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq.</p> <p>*It is suggested that you contact the school to obtain hours for registration.</p>
<i>Are uniforms required for kindergarten students?</i>	Information regarding the School District’s adopted uniform policy will be given at the parent interview/orientation. Please consult with your teacher at that time.
<i>Is kindergarten full day?</i>	Kindergarten is a full day program. The hours will mimic that of the rest of the school population.
<i>What is the cut-off date to enroll children in kindergarten?</i>	The process for enrolling children in kindergarten is ongoing.
<i>What if the parent does not wish for the child to attend the neighborhood school?</i>	For the current school year parents/guardians must always register their child for kindergarten in the neighborhood school first. The School Selection Process is for students and families who wish to apply to a school outside of their neighborhood boundaries for admission into grades K-12 for the following school year. For more information visit: http://webgui.phila.k12.pa.us/offices/s/student-placement/school-selection-process .
<i>Is transportation provided for kindergarten children?</i>	Parents must provide their own transportation for kindergarten children who are not in walking distance of the school. However, transportation is provided ONLY for Kindergarten students whose IEP qualifies them for this service. Please refer to the transportation web page for more information regarding exceptions to this rule.
<i>What happens when the neighborhood school is full?</i>	Every effort will be made to enroll all kindergarten children who have registered in the neighborhood school. However, when the neighborhood school’s kindergarten is full, the Office of Student Enrollment and Placement will be a resource to schools and families on an individual basis to assist them with the process.
<i>Who can I contact if I have questions about the Kindergarten Entry Inventory (KEI) or the Early Childhood Experiences Interview (ECEI)?</i>	For additional information regarding the Kindergarten Entry Inventory (KEI) or the Early Childhood Experiences Interview (ECEI), please contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doria Mitchell, K-3 Early Literacy and Special Projects Director - Sharai Cunningham, K-3 Early Literacy Special Projects Assistant Please see the contact information below.

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<i>Who can I contact for services?</i>	Please contact these representatives in the Office of Early Childhood Education:			
	Doria N. Mitchell	K-3 Early Literacy and Special Projects Director	dnmitchell@philasd.org	(215) 400-5811
	Sharai Cunningham	K-3 Early Literacy Special Projects Assistant	shcunningham@philasd.org	(215) 400-6140
	Tyhira Vorn	Intern	tvorn@philasd.org	(215) 400-6862
	Juanita Rodrigues Romu	FAST Program Coordinator	jromu@philasd.org	(215) 400-6716
	Amber Yancy	Intern	ayancy@philasd.org	(215) 400-6031
	Katherine Bradstreet	P-3 Alignment	kbradstreet@philasd.org	(215) 400-6764