



Williamson County Schools Pre-Kindergarten FAQ

What is the voluntary Pre-K program?

The Voluntary Pre-kindergarten program (VPK) is a state funded readiness program for at-risk children who are 4 years of age on August 15. “At risk” is defined by the state as economically disadvantaged. Other “at-risk” factors which may be used to determine eligibility may include but are not limited to: English as a Second Language, foster care, social-emotional behaviors, and family/environmental factors. Due to state funding there are limited classrooms available in Williamson County, priority placement is given to families that are economically disadvantaged. The VPK program provides a foundation for learning and successful transition to the school environment.

Does every elementary school have a Pre-K class?

No, the TN State Department of Education does not provide enough funding for a pre-k program in every elementary school in our county.

Which schools have a Pre-K class?

Pre-K classes are housed inside elementary schools throughout the Williamson County Schools District. Each school year, the locations are determined based on the applications received and the needs of the district as well as space availability within the elementary schools. Pre-K classes may be moved from one school to another in order to best serve the families of Williamson County.

Who may apply for the Pre-K class?

Parents/Legal Guardians of children who are 4 years of age on or before August 15 and are zoned for Williamson County Schools.

What if I currently do not have a Williamson County residence but my family is planning to move to Williamson County?

Families may complete an application with their current residential address (street, city, state, zip code). In the additional information section of the application, parents will need to provide the approximate move date, residential address if known and the reason for the relocation. The application will be kept “on hold” until the family has moved and resides in Williamson County and proof of residency is able to be provided. Residency in Williamson County will be verified prior to a child being eligible for placement in a pre-K program.

How do I apply for the Pre-K program?

All applications are submitted online on the Williamson County Schools District Website.



Do all schools have the Pre-K program?

No, pre-K class locations are determined each year by the needs of the district as well as space availability within the schools. Only one application should be submitted online for your child. In the case of multiple children (twins), one application should be completed for each child. All applications will be considered for the program. More than one application submitted for the same child will only hinder the application process.

What if I choose to wait and start my child in kindergarten at the age of 6? Would he/she be able to attend the Pre-K class at age 5?

No, the Pre-K program is only available for children who are 4 years of age using the birth date guidelines stated in the above question (August 15, 2021). This is a Tennessee State Law for all Voluntary Pre-K programs (VPK).

What happens next, after I turn in the application for my child?

After you submit your child/children's application, your application will be reviewed based on the eligibility guidelines set by the TN Department of Early Learning. You will be contacted should further information be required to determine eligibility for a Pre-Kindergarten classroom.

Is it first come, first serve on the application?

No, every application will be reviewed for eligibility, but all interested parents are encouraged to turn in applications as soon as possible to be considered for enrollment.

Who is considered 'need for the Pre-K class?

All children develop differently therefore children's needs are also defined differently. A child may need help in social areas, emotional development, academic preparation, or environmental stability. There are many factors which determine a child's success in school.

Do the Pre-K classes use peer models?

No, all of the children enrolled in the Pre-K classes qualify for the program through the eligibility guidelines set by the TN Department of Early Learning. The WCS Student Support Services Department offers an Early Childhood Program for children ages 3-5 which does include peer models. The Early Childhood program has morning and afternoon classes which meet on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday For information regarding the Early Childhood programs and peer model applications [please visit the WCS EC Programs website](#) or the following elementary school offices: Bethesda, Crockett, Fairview, Jordan, Longview, Oak View, Pearre Creek and Scales.

What are the hours and days of the Pre-K class?



The Pre-K class meets Monday through Friday from 9am to 2:30pm. The Pre-K class follows the Williamson County Schools calendar unless otherwise specified for the Pre-Kindergarten program. Attendance is required for all five days each week for the entire Pre-K day (5 ½ hours).

Is before/after care available for my child?

Before/After care may be available for families in need based on availability and staffing of each Pre-K classroom location. The VPK program collaborates with the WCS School Age Child Care program (SACC). Information regarding this program will be provided once class placements have been determined. The Pre-K before/aftercare program is only offered during the WCS school year when Pre-K class is in session. Care during Holidays/vacation breaks and Summers is not offered for Pre-K students due to state certification guidelines for school-aged programs.

Since this is preschool, does my child need to attend every day?

Yes, all children enrolled in a Pre-K class are required to attend every day. Attendance is very important for a successful year of learning. Your child is expected to attend school every day and on time unless he/she fever of 100.0 degrees or higher, vomiting, or showing other symptoms of a contagious illness. Daily attendance, including tardiness/early dismissal, is reported and recorded in the school's system and reported to the State Department of Education, the same as for children in grades K-12.

Who/what determines which children are accepted into the class?

Priority placement for classes is given to children of families of financial need.

If after all priority placements are filled and space is still available, additional application appointments will be scheduled to determine the children most in need of the program. Every effort is made to place the child at his/her kindergarten zoned school but if not available then the child is placed at a Pre-K school closest to their home.

The Pre-K team works together to ensure the integrity of this program and the application process.

Is transportation provided for the Pre-K program? My child wants to ride the school bus.

No, transportation is NOT provided for Pre-K students. Parents/guardians are responsible for transporting the child To and From school each day. WCS school bus service is provided only for children enrolled in grades K-12.



Is there a cost for this program?

No, there is not a weekly or monthly cost for VPK. There is a cost for breakfast and lunch. Families may apply for the Free/Reduced lunch program.

When will I know if my child is accepted into the class?

The WCS Pre-K program is state funded and notification of funding is not confirmed until the WCS school budget has passed by the WCS county commission in July. The number of classrooms is determined by the state of TN funding received each year. All class placements will be determined once funding has been secured. You will be notified by MAIL if your child has been accepted for the Pre-K program. This letter will state which school location your child has been selected to attend for Pre-K. Every effort is made to place the child at a school closest to the child's home. You will be able to confirm your acceptance to the class list or you may deny your child's placement and participation in the program. The acceptance letter will contain information concerning enrollment materials and procedures to confirm your child's place in the class. You will also be notified if your child is not accepted and placed on a waiting list. If your child is not accepted, your child's application will be kept on file in the event of space becoming available at a later date.

What will I need to have for enrollment if my child is accepted into the program?

If your child is accepted into a pre-k program your acceptance letter will notify you of enrollment dates and procedures. You will need the following documents in order to enroll your child at the school office.

- You will need an official copy of your child's birth certificate,
- The Tennessee State Health and Immunization Record and can be obtained from your child's doctor or the Williamson County Health Department
- 2 proofs of residency in Williamson County. These include: Gas, Water, or Electric Bills.
- If you are living with relatives or another resident of Williamson County, you will need to complete additional documents to prove your residence in Williamson County as well as provide residency documents listed above in the Williamson County resident's name.
- All custody information including legal custody agreements and Parenting Plans, if applicable to your family.
- Current lease, mortgage statement and property deed.

What does a Pre-K class look like?

In a WCS Pre-K class, you will find 16-20 children in a play-based classroom environment involved in active, hands-on learning. Teachers plan and deliver high-quality instructional



activities for the children to learn through participation in both a large and small group setting.

Does my child need to have a screening or test to be accepted into a VPK classroom?

No, there is not a screening or test to determine a child's eligibility for enrollment in a VPK classroom.

If upon review of an application, additional information is needed to determine eligibility, a parent/guardian will be contacted and may be asked to meet in-person with a member of VPK team