

PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Is The Purpose of the Pre-K Class?

The purpose of the pre-kindergarten class is to prepare children for success and make it easy for children and parents to move from preschool to kindergarten. The goals are:

- To improve each child's readiness for kindergarten
- To promote social-emotional growth
- To identify needs of the child and help families get any services they need.
- To give parents information that will help them prepare their children for school success.

How Are Children Selected for a Pre-K Program?:

The following criteria will be used to select students for the program:

- Children who will be 4 years old on or before August 31, 2008 and who will be attending kindergarten for the 2009-10 school year;
- Children who qualify for financial assistance for childcare; More at Four and Head Start have income qualifications
- Children not currently enrolled in preschool or child care programs will be given priority
- Children with limited English skills;
- Developmental assessment scores that indicate a need for more individualized instruction;
- Residential school assignment (where the child would be assigned for kindergarten the following school year). Schools hosting a pre-k class require that priority be given to residential children first and zone children second.
- Parents will be notified in writing if their child has been accepted for enrollment, denied, or put on a waiting list.
- Parents should be notified of their child's enrollment status by July 16, 2008 (for applications received before June 15th)

Where are the Pre-K Classes Located?

Information about the classroom sites, and where they are located, is included in the application packet. Children will be assigned to a site by More at Four, WSFCS, and Head Start Program Staff based on eligibility, needs of the family, requirements of the program's funding, and residential school assignment. On pages 13 & 14 of the application, we ask you to indicate sites that may be conveniently located near your home or work. School sites are restricted to children who are residential to the schools that offer pre-k. Children who live in a school zone, but are not residential to the school may be assigned to a school site after all residential children who have applied are placed.

Pre-K Schedules and Calendars:

Pre-K classes will operate on a 6 - 6 ½ hour day Monday through Friday on a schedule that closely follows the Winston Salem Forsyth County Schools. Each site has its own schedule. It may vary slightly from the school's schedule because parents are required to enter the building and sign in each day at drop off and pick up times. Each family will receive a calendar at orientation.

School Uniforms :

Some sites may require school uniforms. You will be notified by your child's teacher prior to the beginning of school.

Before and After School Care: *Some locations* offer extended care before and after school, and teacher workdays. *Where available*, sites charge a fee for extended care. Pre-K classes in childcare centers or Head Start sites usually offer extended care. Public school sites do not typically offer extended care for pre-k children. If before and/or after school care is available, parents must make arrangements with the director or principal at each site. *If you have a DSS voucher, you may be able to use the voucher to pay for extended care. Talk to your case manager at the Department of Social Services to see if this applies.*

Transportation: It is the responsibility of the parent to provide transportation to and from the pre-k class. Transportation is not provided and children are not allowed to ride the school bus. **If transportation is a barrier, please talk to your parent educator or your child's teacher.**