



Preschool Frequently Asked Questions

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About the Preschool Expansion Program

What is the goal of the Preschool Expansion Program?

Preschool Education Aid (PEA) is additional state aid provided to school districts for the purpose of implementing preschool programs. Over the next five years, the goal of PEA is to expand the availability of preschool classrooms for three and four-year-old residents of the Flemington-Raritan School District at no cost to parents.

What are the costs associated with the preschool program?

There are no costs to attend the preschool program for any resident, age-eligible child in the Flemington-Raritan School District. Lunch is provided to students for purchase as it is with all of our K-8 students. Families who are eligible for free or reduced lunch will be provided meals consistent with their free/reduced application.

What is the age eligibility for the preschool program?

Flemington-Raritan School District residents turning three or four years of age by October 1st are eligible for the preschool program.

How do I know if I reside within the Flemington-Raritan School District?

The best way to verify your residence in the Flemington-Raritan School District, and to find your child's home school is to visit the [District General Information Page](#).

What is the enrollment for each class?

Each preschool classroom has a maximum enrollment of 15 students. Each classroom has a combination of *three and four-year-old students, inclusive of students with special needs*. A mixed-delivery classroom model is the recommendation of the Department of Early Childhood and will continue as the District continues to expand its preschool classes. This means that classes will continue to be inclusive of students with special needs and a mix of three and four-year-old students.

How do I register for the preschool program?

After your child has been selected through the lottery, the registration process will require the same documentation as all other student registrations, with the addition of a Fall 2024 flu vaccine and the Early Screening Inventory Parent Questionnaire. Even if your child is already attending one of the private providers,



the Flemington-Raritan School District will require parents to register with the district. Visit the [registration page of the website](#) for details.

Does my child need to be potty trained to attend the preschool program?

No. Children do not need to be potty trained prior to enrollment into the program. Teachers will promote toileting skills in the classroom and families are encouraged to work on toileting skills at home.

Preschool Lottery:

Who is eligible for the preschool program?

Flemington-Raritan School District residents turning 3 or 4 years of age by October 1st are eligible for the preschool program. At this time, all available seats are filled. The expansion began in January 2024, so far the District has enrolled over 230 preschool students for the 2024-2025 school year. Selection was determined through a lottery, utilizing an electronic random selection generator. Families who submitted their child's name to the preschool lottery for the 2024-2025 school year were included in the random selection process.

When will the Preschool Lottery for the school year 2025-2026 open?

The Preschool Lottery for the school year 2025-2026 was open from January 3, 2025 to February 21, 2025. Notification of student preschool placement and waitlist placement was sent via email on March 14, 2025. Please visit our Preschool website, [here](#), for updates.

How many seats were available for the 2025-2026 school year from the lottery?

Approximately 100 general education seats were available for the 2025-2026 school year.

How many entries were there in the lottery?

There were over 300 entries into the lottery for the 2025-2026 school year.

How many students are on the waitlist for the 2025-2026 school year?

There are approximately 200 students on the waitlist for the 2025-2026 school year.

How do I know where my child is on the waitlist?

Due to the waitlist being live and constantly changing, it is best to call the preschool office to find out where your child is on the waitlist. This will allow us to provide you with the most accurate information at the time of your call.

Do I need to enter the lottery annually?

Yes. If your child was not selected in the lottery and was placed on the waitlist, you will need to re-enter the lottery for the following school year.

If my child was placed on the waitlist for the current school year, will they automatically be enrolled the following year?



No. Children are only submitted to the lottery for one school year. If the child is not selected for enrollment, families will need to re-enter the lottery for the following school year.

If my child is enrolled in the program as a three year old, do I need to re-enter the lottery for the next school year?

No. Students that were selected by the lottery and are enrolled in the preschool program as a three year old will be automatically enrolled as a four year old student in the following school year.

If my child is on the waitlist, what are the chances of them being enrolled?

Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that spots will become available for all students on the waitlist. Spots for the Flemington-Raritan Preschool program may become available at any time during the school year and the next family on the waitlist will be notified via the email and phone number provided on their lottery submission. If you are looking to guarantee your child's enrollment in a preschool program, it may be a good idea to also consider other options.

Am I able to change locations after my child has been selected from the lottery?

It is typically not possible to change locations as lottery student placements are sent by location. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that any seats will become available at specific locations. Should you wish to forego the opportunity and deny your child's seat at your current preschool placement, your child's seat cannot be held for another location and it will become available to the next child on the waitlist.

If my child was selected from the lottery and I decide to decline the spot, is it still available for me at a later time if my situation changes?

No. Your child's spot will not be held should you wish to forego this opportunity, rather it will become available to the next child on the waitlist.

Can I request to be on a waitlist for a specific preschool location?

No. We do not have location specific waitlists. Parent preferences were noted on the Lottery Entry Form and the District tries to place students at one of the preferences that have been listed by the parents. If all locations listed are full, students may be placed at any preschool location throughout the District.

My child is turning five before October 1. Where may I send my request for consideration for my child to continue in preschool, rather than advancing to kindergarten?

The District's policy indicates the October 1st date for grade-level entrance. The Department of Early Childhood sets forth preschool programming guidelines for a mixed delivery of ages 3 and 4-year-old students. If a parent wishes their child an additional year in preschool, they may opt to educate them privately. The District will adhere to this guideline in an effort to reach its preschool universe as swiftly as possible. For questions, or unique circumstances that cause a request for consideration for continuation in preschool, please email preschoolexpansion@frsd.us.

If a family has twins/multiples of the same preschool age, will they be accepted to the program if only one is selected through the lottery?

Parents may request twins/multiples enter preschool together through the lottery survey. The District will make every effort to accommodate the request.



I am a District employee and FRSD resident, and I am interested in the preschool program. Do I apply through the lottery system?

Yes, District employees who reside in the Flemington-Raritan School District are entered in the random lottery selection process. There is no preferential treatment for District employees.

Preschool Locations:

What locations will serve preschool students in the 2024-2025 school year?

Beginning September 2024, at least one preschool classroom will be located at all four (4) district elementary schools: Barley Sheaf School, Copper Hill School, Francis A. Desmares School, and Robert Hunter School. In addition, we have three community partnerships. The program's start and end times may vary as they are contingent upon transportation.

What locations will serve preschool students in the 2025-2026 school year?

For the 2025-2026 school year at least one preschool classroom will be located at all four (4) district elementary schools: Barley Sheaf School, Copper Hill School, Francis A. Desmares School, and Robert Hunter School. In addition we anticipate having four community partnerships. The program's start and end times may vary as they are contingent upon transportation.

Provider/School	Number of General Education, Preschool Classrooms	Location Special Notes
Barley Sheaf School (80 Barley Sheaf Road, Flemington)	1 classroom	
Copper Hill School (100 Everitts Road, Ringoes)	6 classrooms	Copper Hill is also home to two Preschool with Disabilities (PSD) special class programs.
Francis A. Desmares (16 old Clinton Road, Flemington)	1 classroom	
Robert Hunter School (8 Dayton Rd. Flemington)	2 classrooms	
First Friends Child Development Center (18 Church Street, Flemington)	1 classroom	First Friends is located behind the REMAX building in Liberty Village.
Norwescap Head Start - Ringoes (79 US-202 #200, Ringoes)	1 classroom	
Precious Gems Academy (433 US HWY 202, Flemington)	2 classrooms *1 additional classroom	Precious Gems is located behind Eastern Dental on Highway 202.

*[KinderCare of Flemington](#)
(4 Royal Rd, Flemington)

*2 classrooms

How does the District determine where my child attends preschool?

There are several factors the District will use to determine placement. These include:

- Parent preference via the lottery entry form
- Seat availability
- Sibling enrollment
- Special services needed
- Transportation route/distance from home to school.

Can I choose the preschool location my child attends?

The District will ask parents their preference in where children attend preschool via the questions on the lottery entry form. Every effort will be made to accommodate those preferences with the least amount of disruption to student education. However, the District will make all final placement decisions to balance class ratios and achieve transportation routes that best serve our children.

Am I able to change locations after my child has been selected from the lottery?

It is typically not possible to change locations as lottery student notification placements are sent by location. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that any seats will become available at specific locations. Should you wish to forego the opportunity and deny your child's seat at your current preschool placement, your child's seat cannot be held for another location and it will become available to the next child on the waitlist.

Can I request to be on a waitlist for a specific preschool location?

No. We do not have location specific waitlists. Parent preferences were noted on the Lottery Entry Form and the District tries to place students at one of the preferences that have been listed by the parents. If all locations listed are full, students may be placed at any preschool location throughout the District.

Will my child's teacher and/or location be changed in their second year of preschool?

Each school year the District will review student enrollment to determine final placement decisions to balance class ratios and achieve transportation routes that best serve our children. Parents will be notified before the end of the previous school year of their child's location placement for the following school year. Placements may change to return a child to their homeschool. Placements that have a child remain at their current location do not mean that they will remain with the same teacher. Information regarding teacher assignments will be sent to families in the summer.

Will my child be able to buy lunch at a private provider location?

Yes. The District will make a lunch menu available at all school and private provider locations for purchase consistent with the National School Lunch Program. Please know there may be variations in lunch offered between the school locations and private providers, but all preschool locations will adhere to all National School Lunch Program standards.

Transportation

Will transportation be available?

The District will make transportation available to all parents who wish to have their child(ren) transported to school by a school bus/van at no cost to parents. Students who attend Norwescap Head Start - Ringoes will have transportation provided by Norwescap Head Start. Please visit our website [here](#), for further information regarding transportation.

How will my child get on the bus?

Parents/guardians will place their preschool student(s) onto the school bus/van and buckle them into the five-point car seat. Parents/guardians will also unbuckle their preschool student(s) from the five-point car seat and escort them off of the school bus/van.

When will my child transition out of a five-point car seat?

On/after your child turns 5, a car seat will no longer be required on the bus/van and your child will transition into a seatbelt. Parents/guardians will continue to place their preschool student(s) onto the school bus/van and buckle them into the seat belt. Parents/guardians will also unbuckle their preschool student(s) from the seatbelt and escort them off of the school bus/van.

How long will my child be on the bus?

Your child may be en route to school anywhere between 25-50 minutes depending on the route assigned to your child. It is helpful to ensure your child has utilized the restroom prior to getting on the bus.

Will there be an aide on the bus for preschool students?

This will depend on the number of preschool students on a bus/van.

Will preschoolers be transported with students in other grade levels?

Yes, preschool students may be transported with children in grades K-4.

The Preschool Day

What are the school days and hours?

All programs will be six hours (minimum) in length. Barley Sheaf School, Copper Hill School, Francis A. Desmares School, Robert Hunter School, First Friends Child Development Center, Precious Gems Academy, and *KinderCare preschool programs will run commensurate with students in grades K-4. Specific pick-up and drop-off times may vary by location due to dismissal procedures and transportation providers. Minor delays are to be expected on occasion, especially at the launch of the expansion of preschool.

*KinderCare is an anticipated location for the 2025-2026 school year.

Can my child attend preschool on a half-day schedule?



No. Per the state requirements, preschool is a full-day program, and all students who wish to be included in this funding opportunity must be registered and enrolled in the full-day program.

Does my child have to attend preschool five days a week?

Yes. Per the state guidelines, it is the District's responsibility to provide at minimum a six hour comprehensible educational program and school day in accordance with the school district's calendar. [The District's School Calendar](#) encompasses a 180 day school year, for students.

What are the expectations for attendance?

Preschool students are expected to attend school regularly. The preschool program adheres to the school age student Board Policy 5200 for regular school attendance. Further, if a child is absent without excuse for ten consecutive days of school, the child may no longer be enrolled in the District preschool program and the slot may be filled with another child from the waitlist. For additional information, please review the district's [Preschool Attendance Guidelines](#).

Is there before and after-care programming?

Before and after-care programming is not a component of preschool expansion, meaning the costs and registration associated with these programs are the responsibility of the parent. For more information regarding these programs, please contact the preschool location that your child attends

Where can I access more detailed information about the preschool day?

The best place to begin to learn more is the district's [Preschool website](#).

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