

# Welcome to NECSD Universal Pre-K

## Frequently Asked Questions

2023-2024



### When is UNIVERSAL PRE-K REGISTRATION?

- UPK registration window is open now through April 14, 2023. Applications submitted after April 14th will be accepted but may be waitlisted based on seat availability.
- The Pre-K application is online registration system and can be accessed on the NECSD website: [www.newburghschools.org](http://www.newburghschools.org)
- \*Please note Community Based Sites require updated physicals, immunizations and completion of a site based application prior to starting.



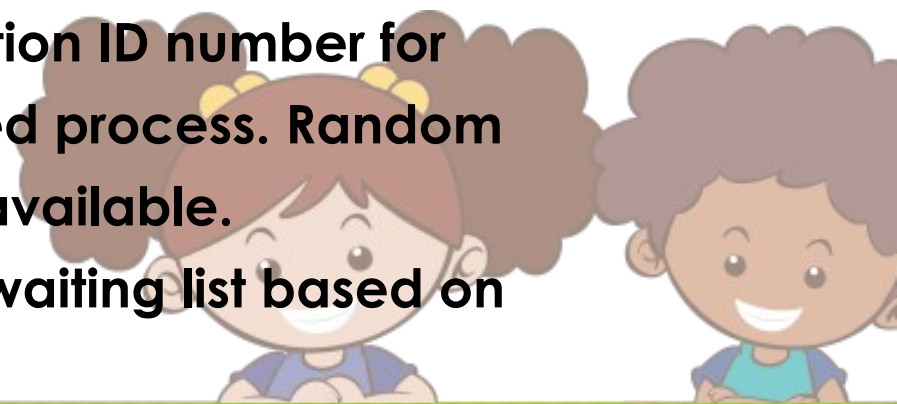
# What is the eligibility criteria for UPK in the 2023-2024 school year?

- **Must be 4 on or before December 1st 2023**
- **Reside in the Newburgh Enlarged City School District**
  - **It is important to review the necessary documents prior to beginning the registration application**



# How do I register my child for Universal Pre-kindergarten?

- Visit the NECSD website [www.newburghschools.org](http://www.newburghschools.org)
  - Departments - Registration
    - Register My Child
      - Pre-K Registration New Families
      - Pre-K Registration Current Families
        - Access the Online Application System
- Required documents must be scanned and uploaded to the system
- Submit on or before April 14, 2023 and keep you application ID number for your records. Pre-K Registration is not first come first served process. Random lottery selection will occur if more applicants than seats available.
- Applications will be accepted after April 14, 2023 with a waiting list based on seat availability.



### What are the school options?

- **District Public Schools**
  - **Balmville, Gardnertown, Gidney Avenue Memorial School, Horizons**
- **Community Sites**
  - **Little Harvard**
  - **Windsor Academy**
  - **SUNY Lab School Newburgh Campus**
  - **Healthy Kids**
  - **Young & Unique**
  - **Head Start of Eastern Orange County\***

**\*must meet site based eligibility requirements**



# How does busing work in UPK?

- **Transportation zones**
  - **If you require transportation, your Pre-K site is assigned based on your home address or request for an alternate bus stop.**
  - **Complete alternate stop requests at same time as registration.**
  - **Pre-K busing is for Pre-K students only and includes a bus monitor.**
  - **If you have your own transportation, you can choose a community based option or if assigned a District public school based on home address, you can decline bus transportation and become a permanent pick up.**
  - **Transportation to Head Start, if available is arranged directly with the site.**



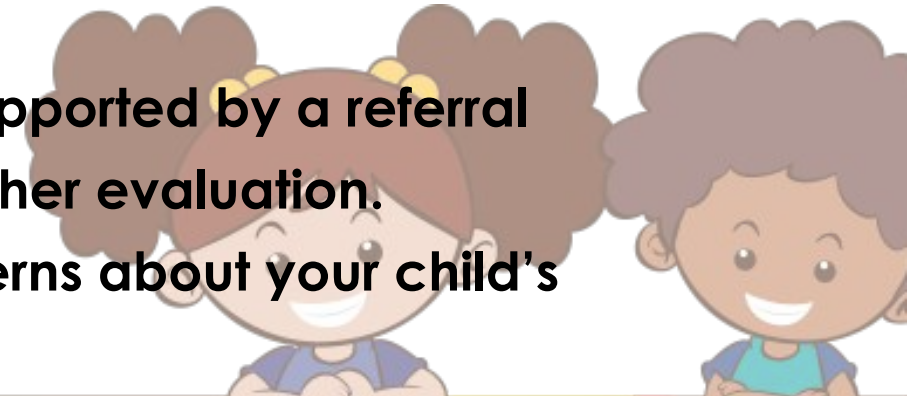
### What does a UPK daily schedule look like?

- The learning environments meet NYS Office of Early Learning requirements for Statewide Universal Full Day Pre-K and are supported through partnership with QualitystarsNY.
- Pre-K classrooms offer an intentionally planned daily schedule
- The daily schedule supports child development through exploration of Creative Curriculum Units of Study - Beginning of Year, Clothing, Balls, Trees, Buildings, Reduce, Reuse Recycle, and Getting Ready for Kindergarten and meeting objectives for learning and development.
- Breakfast, lunch and snack occur in the classroom with staff
- Large group meetings
- Interest area/centers (dramatic play, blocks & building, math & manipulatives, library & literacy, sensory, science and discovery, and creative arts)
- physical activities & music/movement
- small group work
- quiet activities/rest/nap
- read alouds



### How does the Pre-K program monitor student progress?

- All Pre-K students are screened using an early childhood screening tool to help identify developmental difficulties.
- Staff use ongoing observational assessment to monitor student progress meeting Teaching Strategies Gold Objectives for Learning and Development in the areas of Social Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy, Mathematics and English Language Acquisition.
- Learning and Development Reports are provided following the District Pre-K - 5 Trimester/Marking Periods Calendar.
- Students exhibiting developmental difficulties may be supported by a referral to the Committee on Preschool Special Education for further evaluation.
- Please talk to your child's teacher if you have any concerns about your child's development.





### Are UPK students assigned to the same school as older siblings?

- UPK students are NOT assigned to the same school as older siblings. They are assigned to select schools based on transportation zones.
- Not all Elementary Schools offer the Pre-K program. Fostertown, Meadow Hill, New Windsor, Temple Hill, and Vails Gate do not have UPK.
- Pre-K is offered at select District Schools - Balmville, Gardnertown, Gidney Avenue Memorial School, Horizons
- Please note GAMS Pre-K has a later school start and end time than GAMS K-5
  - GAMS K-5 8:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
  - Pre-K 9:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m



## UPK INFORMATION

# When will I get information about my child's UPK school, orientation and busing information?

- School assignment from Office of Registration - End of June/Early July
- Invitation to summer screening appointment - July/First Week August
- Welcome letter from school - Early to mid August
- Bus route from District transportation office - End of August or located on District website using student ID number.
- District Elementary School UPK Orientation - Last week of August or Early September - Typically during the day, a day or two before first day of school
- Community Based Orientation - contact site directly



### What can I do now to get my child ready for Pre-K?

- Talk to them about all the fun things they will do in school
- Help them begin to adjust to being without you.
- Read stories about transition to school with to your child
  - Kissing Hand, Wemberly Worried, First Day Jitters, Llama Llama, Missing Mama
- Master independent toileting before school starts.
- Use a daily schedule at home to provide time limits
- Have them practice saying their full name: first and last
- Give them simple instructions and expect them to complete tasks.
- Teach them how to open food packages and lunch containers.
- Send your child to school with a picture of them with their family.



# What can I do now to get my child ready for Pre-K?

### Immunizations

All scholars must be up-to-date on the following immunizations per the NYS Department of Health to attend Pre-K for the 2023-2024 school year:

DTaP, Polio, Varicella, MMR, Hepatitis B, Pneumococcal and Haemophilus influenza, type B.

### Physicals

All scholars must have an updated physical on file in the health office for the 2023-2024 school year.



## UPK INFORMATION

### What can I do now to get my child ready for Pre-K?

In District Schools, emergency information cards are sent home the first week of school. This card must be filled out immediately and returned to school. Please make sure to have two emergency contacts listed, other than a parent/guardian, who can get to your child's school within 30 minutes in the event your child is sick or there is an emergency. For community based organizations, please contact the site directly to discuss any health concerns.

Please inform the school health office or Pre-K site as soon as possible, of any allergies, medical concerns/conditions or accommodations your child may have. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Mrs. Kristina Willis, RN, MSN, SNT

GAMS Pre-K School Nurse Teacher

P- 845-563-8472



### How can I find out more about NECSD UPK?

- [NECSD Registration](#)
- <https://www.newburghschools.org/page.php?page=212>
  
- [NECSD Transportation](#)
- <https://www.newburghschools.org/page.php?page=20>
  
- [Pre-K Program](#)
- <https://www.newburghschools.org/prek-page.php?page=153>



### I have more questions, who can I contact?

#### UPK Site Contact information

<https://www.newburghschools.org/prek-page.php?page=154>

#### NECSD UPK Program Contacts

Melanie DeJesus Russell, UPK Social Worker 845-563-8466

Tara Marshall, Principal GAMS Pre-K 845-568-6730

#### Sign Up to Receive More Information

<https://forms.gle/M9zVedXyLJ8cYFwL7>

