

DISCOVER THREE YEAR OLD PREKINDERGARTEN IN THE WATERTOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2022-2023 Prekindergarten Lottery Application and Information



APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 2, 2022 @ 12 PM

Life-long learning begins here

The Watertown City School District offers high-quality, full-day prekindergarten in many of our neighborhood elementary schools, as well as eight community agencies.

Prekindergarten classes are enrolled through a lottery designed to provide equal access for all children in the city of Watertown. To have the best chance of getting a seat in the program of your choice, you must enter your child in this lottery. This booklet includes an application for the lottery and other important information to help you decide on the program that is best for your child.

Please see page 6 for a list of prekindergarten programs, their hours and whether they offer before-and after-school child care. To learn more about your options we encourage you to contact the principal, Peg Drappo, at 315-786-5071.

A few words about prekindergarten

Prekindergarten is more than simply a doorway into your child’s formal education experience.

Research shows that high-quality prekindergarten increases a child’s chances of succeeding in school and in life. Children who attend high-quality pre-K programs are less likely to be held back, less likely to need special education and more likely to graduate high school.

In the Watertown City School District we offer high-quality prekindergarten that is “developmentally appropriate” meaning it respects the age and individual needs of each child. Our caring and responsive prekindergarten teachers work to create a welcoming environment for both parents and children that allows learning to flourish.

Peer into a pre-K classroom and it may look like all fun and games. However, there’s an intense amount of brainwork going on. For example, your child’s building blocks and train tracks aren’t just entertaining. they’re teaching problem solving and physics. This meaningful playing and learning takes place throughout the school day. Whether school based or located at one of our community-based partners, all of our pre-K classrooms follow the same basic curriculum that provides a combination of both structure and flexibility. Structure takes the form of helping your child develop a routine and good learning habits. At the same time, your child is given the opportunity to investigate new things and make choices about the activities he or she want to take part in.

Finally we recognize the role parents play as teachers and advocates before and after their children begin attending school. We look forward to working with you to give your child a solid foundation for school success.



How the prekindergarten lottery works

All prekindergarten students are enrolled in a random lottery designed to provide access for all children in Watertown. To have the best chance of getting a seat in the program of your choice, you must enter your child in the lottery. The lottery will be held on **Friday, May 6, 2022** at the Massey Street Learning Center, 532 S. Massey St. After the lottery, the district will send you official notification of your child's prekindergarten assignment. **Applications will continue to be accepted after the deadline / lottery. Students will be placed in the order that they are received.**

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will transportation be provided to prekindergarten?

A: No, Families are responsible for transporting their child to and from prekindergarten.

Q: How are twins and other siblings handled in the lottery?

A: You can choose how you want the district to process the lottery applications for two or more siblings. You have two options.

1. Link your children's applications and have them move through the lottery process together; your children with linked applications will be assigned to a particular school or program only if they all receive spots. If a school or program does not have enough room for all your children, then none of them will be assigned there.

2. Do not link your children's applications. Your children's applications will move through the lottery process separately, which could result in them being assigned to different schools or buildings.

Q: If one of my children gets a seat but the other ones doesn't, do I now have sibling preference?

A: It depends. If one child gets assigned to a program, the other child will have sibling preference in the waiting pool once you accept and register the first child. There is no sibling preference for applications submitted after the deadline.

Q: How old does my child have to be?

A: Your child must be three years old by December 1, 2022.

Q: Can I enroll my child if I do not live within the Watertown City School District?

A: No. You must submit proof of residence. Only available to residents of the Watertown City School District.

Q: Can I remain on the waiting list for a school and accept a seat in a different program?

A: Yes

Q: Can I be on a waiting list for more than one prekindergarten program?

A: Yes, one waiting list will be compiled for all locations. When a spot becomes available, families will be called in the order received.

Applying for the lottery

Complete the application on pg. 5 & 6.

Please print legibly so that all information can be entered accurately. Review your application to make sure the information is accurate.

Mail or hand-deliver your application to:

Watertown City School District

Pre-K Lottery

532 S Massey Street

Watertown, NY 13601

Deadline:

Wednesday, May 2, 2022 @ 3 PM

Lottery Date:

Wednesday May 6, 2022

Massey St Learning Center

Remember:

To be eligible for Pre-K your child must be 3 years old by December 1, 2022.

To be considered siblings children must share at least one parent.

Only Watertown residents can participate in the program. Proof of residency required.

Special Education placements are determined by the Special Education Dept. Availability varies at each school.



Questions?

Call (315) 786-5071

WWW.Watertowncsd.org

Preference – please choose a site by placing a number in order of preference. Only numbered sites (1,2,3,4 etc.) will be considered. X’s or blanks will not be considered.

*Transportation is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

***Site information is subject to change (hours, childcare availability, location, etc.). Please note that locations as well as the agencies providing services may change up to September 2022 and preferences are not guaranteed.**

_____ **North Elementary School**, 171 E Hoard St, Watertown NY Coordinated by **Jefferson County CAPC**—(315) 782-4900 ext 236

Hours - 8:30 AM-1:30 PM

_____ **Ohio Elementary School**, 1537 Ohio St, Watertown, NY Coordinated by **Benchmark Family Services** - (315) 786-7285

Hours - 8:00 AM-1:00 PM

_____ **Wiley Intermediate School**.-1351 Washington Street, Watertown, NY Coordinated by the **YMCA Daycare** - (315) 755-1208

Hours – 8:00 AM-1:00 PM

_____ **Bright Beginnings Early Learning Center**- 420 Gaffney Dr., Watertown, NY- (315) 836-1226

Hours - 8:45 AM- 2:15 PM * Wrap around childcare available at an additional charge (7:00am-4:30pm)

_____ **First Step Day Care**– 317 Washington St (State Office Building), Watertown, NY- (315) 788-5437

Hours - 8:30AM—2:30 PM *Wrap around childcare available at an additional charge (7:30am-5:30pm)

_____ **Jefferson Campus Care**-1220 Coffeen St. Bldg. 8, Watertown, NY- (315) 786-2357

Hours – 8:30 AM- 1:30 PM * Wrap around childcare available at an additional charge (7:30am-5:00pm)

_____ **New Day Children’s Center**- 327 Franklin St, Watertown, NY - (315) 788-1787

Hours - 8:00 AM-1:00 PM * Wrap around childcare available at an additional charge (7:00am-5:00pm)

_____ **Tree House Daycare**- 255 Gaffney Dr., Watertown, NY - (315) 788-0825 Option 2

Hours - 8:00 AM-1:00 PM * Wrap around childcare available at an additional charge (6:00am-5:30pm)

_____ **YMCA Daycare Center**- 514 Washington Street, Watertown, NY- (315) 755-1208

Hours - 8:00 AM-1:00 PM * Wrap around childcare available at an additional charge (6:30am-5:30pm)

_____ **Jefferson County CAPC UPK/Head Start Combo Program** 518 Davidson St. Watertown, NY- (315) 782-4900 ext. 236

●**Hours – 8:00 AM- 1:00 PM**

●Transportation is provided

●Families must meet income guidelines AND submit an additional application

*The above named child lives within the Watertown City School District. If we move before the end of the school year (June 2023), I (the parent) will notify the preschool immediately. By signing below, I certify that I have **read and completed all sections** of this application and that the information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that my personal information will be kept confidential.*

Community Based Organizations and locations are subject to change based upon agencies meeting the qualifications of NYS certification requirements for pre-k programs.

Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date _____

APPLICATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE LOTTERY DEADLINE .

STUDENTS WILL BE PLACED IN THE ORDER THAT THEY WERE RECEIVED.