Prekindergarten (PreK)

The goal of the PreK program is to prepare children socially, emotionally, physically, and academically for Kindergarten and beyond.

Charles County Public Schools offers full-day Prekindergarten programs at **all** 22 elementary schools and the Early Learning Center at the College of Southern Maryland.

You **must** apply for PreK at the school you are zoned for based on your home address. School change requests are NOT accepted for PreK.

Income eligibility guidelines for Tier I increased significantly for the 2022-2023 school year. As a result of the increase, enrollment numbers were impacted with less slots available for Tier II and Tier III applicants.

PreK programs in some schools are designated inclusion programs for preschool-aged special-needs children, as well as typically-developing children.

1. Who can apply for PreK?

To be considered for PreK, a child **must** be 4 years old on or before September 1 of the current school year and must be a Charles County resident. All applicants must submit income verification for the 2023-2024 school year.

2. Are all county children entitled to attend PreK?

No. The PreK program is neither mandatory nor guaranteed. In accordance with the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, first priority is given to students whose families meet the income eligibility for Tier I, are homeless or are in foster care, or have a current, active Individualized Education Plan (IEP). All Tier I students are admitted after verification. Tier II and Tier III students may be placed if slots exist after all Tier I students are placed. For a full description of the three application tiers, please see *Prekindergarten Application Tiers.*

3. Is transportation provided for PreK students?

Yes, in most cases. PreK students ride the bus to and from school with other students from their school. If you qualify for Tier I and the PreK program at your home school is full at the time your child is accepted, you will be offered a placement at a different school. Transportation may be available**.**

The Prekindergarten application process

- Complete the online application for PreK beginning April 17, 2023:

    https://www.ccboe.com

- Upload all required documentation:

    *income verification documents

    *two proofs of domicile

    *child's birth certificate

    *child's immunization record

    *copy of parent/guardian's driver's license

If you have questions about the required documentation, please visit

https://www.ccboe.com/parents/online-registration

*All required documents must be uploaded before an application can be processed.

*Tier II and Tier III applications submitted after July 31, 2023, will go to the bottom of the waiting list.

Please check your ParentVue account over the summer for updates. No updates will be provided over the phone.