Stafford Township Board of Education Policy

2710 TUITION PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

The Stafford Township Board of Education believes in the importance of early childhood education. Accordingly, the Stafford Township School District will offer a preschool program for students who are 3 or 4 years old or will be 3 or 4 years old as of October 1st of the entering year. The program is a tuition based program and is separate and apart from the District's special education preschool program and funding received as a former Early Literacy Launch Initiative (ELLI) for qualifying student. Please note that the District's special education preschool program and ELLI program are governed specifically by applicable law, other Board policy, or other qualification. These programs are non-tuition programs and are not governed by this policy.

Program

The Stafford Township School District's program is an integrated, child centered, play based preschool program including children of all capabilities, skills, and interests. The program will have full day (3-day or 5-day option) at the Oxycocus Elementary School. Each class will be taught by a certified early childhood education teacher and teaching assistant and will have a class size of 18-20 students. The preschool will follow the Stafford Township School District calendar.

In preschool, students will explore and investigate many important pre-kindergarten skills. All learning will take place in small, natural settings, because many learning experiences for preschool students are spontaneous – arising from an inquiry and expanded on by a showing of genuine interest in the idea or concept. Students will be encouraged to take a look at the world around them and ask questions about what they see, how they feel, and what they think.

The Stafford Township School District preschool will follow a State approved curriculum. Students will have an opportunity to be exposed to: math concepts including routines, numbers, patterns, categorizing, classification, colors, shapes; science concepts including independent inquiries, prediction and hypothesizing, critical thinking, making connections; language arts concepts including letters, literature, sequencing, rhyming, storytelling; social development concepts including resolving conflicts with words, cooperating, sharing, waiting turns, following directions, making choices independently, and other social skills.

Program Eligibility

The preschool program will be open to all students ages 3 and 4 years old as of October 1st of the entering year. Residents of Stafford Township will be given first priority. However, students residing outside of Stafford Township may enroll for an additional $100 per month, pending space availability.

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All parents/guardians seeking to enroll students in the preschool program must complete all registration materials and meet the requirements set forth therein prior to enrollment. There will be a non-refundable registration fee.

In addition to the specific registration requirements of the Tuition Preschool Program, students will be asked to meet other enrollment requirements as set forth by applicable law and/or Board policy. This specifically includes but is not limited to immunization requirements.

Tuition Rates

Tuition rates will be set by the Board of Education on an annual basis for the upcoming school year. Tuition payments must be paid in full on or before the 15th of each month prior to attendance (e.g., on August 15th for attendance in the month of September). Students (parents/guardians) who fail to make timely payments may be assessed a late fee and may not be permitted to attend the program starting on the first day of the month of non-payment (e.g., failure to pay on August 15th will mean no attendance starting September 1st) and risk forfeiting the student's place in the program.

Transportation

Transportation for the Stafford Township School District preschool program will not be provided by the Stafford Township School District. Parents/Guardians are responsible for providing transportation for their own student. Please note, as set forth herein above, this provision does not apply to students who are enrolled in the Preschool Program under a separate qualification (e.g., special education or ELLI) as they may receive transportation under the requirements of that program.

All students who receive transportation will be expected to follow all applicable bus rules and procedures, as specifically set forth in the Bus Rules Handbook, Board policy and regulation, or as deemed necessary and appropriate by the bus driver for safe operation of the school bus. The Bus Rules Handbook will be provided to all students (parents/guardians) who are provided bussing as part of the separate qualification.

Other

Once enrolled in the Tuition Preschool Program, all students will be expected to comply with all policies, rules, regulations and procedures as set forth and as reasonably established by the Board of Education and the Stafford Township School District for the safe and efficient operation of its schools. This includes but is not limited to following all policies and procedures for medications/illness, attendance, sign out/pick up procedures, and discipline. The Stafford Township School District reserves the right to exclude children from the Tuition Preschool Program for failure to comply with those reasonable policies, rules, and regulations, as permitted by applicable law.

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For more detailed information, please contact the Director of Preschool and/or the Preschool Handbook.

Adopted: 25 September 2012
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