

PRE-K PROGRAMMING GUIDE

Zion District 6 offers Pre-K instruction to eligible 3 and 4-year-olds, so they may have access to high-quality programs the year before they begin kindergarten. Our programming is funded through the Illinois Preschool for All grant program and promises that three and four-year-olds can engage in the early learning experiences they need to succeed in school and in life. Preschool for All is a high-quality program that brings together qualified staff, a proven curriculum and parent involvement to help prepare children for success in school.

Our program offers half-day classes only, both morning and afternoon sessions. The focus of the Pre-K program is to develop oral language skills, prerequisite skills for emergent reading and early math concepts, and to build readiness skills for successful entry into kindergarten.

PROGRAM DETAILS

The program is free for qualifying students. We do not offer a tuition program at this time.

Half-day classes only; 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (morning session) or 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm (afternoon session). Full-day classes are not offered.

Transportation to and from the Pre-K program on any campus is the responsibility of the parent as bus transportation is not provided for children attending the program. However, students are eligible for free transportation if they live more than 0.3 miles from the school of attendance.

Students may also be eligible for free transportation if they live less than 0.3 miles from the school of attendance and within an approved hazard area. Please contact the district registrar for more information regarding transportation services.

Pre-K campus placement will be based on the assigned zoning and campus enrollment at the time of enrollment.

The program offers 120 available seats each year.




Class sizes and child/staff ratios will have no more than 20 children with 2 adults. The 2 adults will be an appropriately certified and licensed teacher, and an appropriately certified teaching assistant.

Student will be placed within preferred session, to the best of our ability and program availability.

Applications are available each spring/summer during the Pre-K registration window.

Families are chosen based upon the eligibility criterion of the highest need.

Applications will be accepted until all available slots have been filled. Once filled, eligible students will be placed on a waitlist until a vacancy is available.

		
Beulah Park	East	Lakeview
(1) AM (1) PM	(1) AM (1) PM	(1) AM (1) PM

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

2.5-HOUR PROGRAM*

10 MINUTES

Arrival and Quiet Centers

5 MINUTES

Cleanup Time

15 MINUTES

Whole Group Time

65 MINUTES:

Choice Time
(includes snack)

5 MINUTES:

Cleanup Time

30 MINUTES:

Gross Motor

15 MINUTES:

Small Group Time

5 MINUTES:

Dismissal

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS [FAQ]

If the program is full, how can my 3-year-old qualify for Pre-K 3?

Zion Elementary District 6 partners with Head Start to provide Pre-K for three-year olds. Families must complete the Head Start application and qualify to participate. Your child must be 3-years-old on or before Sept. 1 of the current year.

What if my child speaks limited English?

Available placement options will be discussed at time of registration.

How many classes are at each school?

There is one AM and one PM class available at each PreK-2 elementary school (Beulah Park, Lakeview, and East).

Why are full-day PreK classes not offered?

Increased costs, additional staffing, and limited school classroom availability to provide full-day programming has become increasingly strenuous for our district.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The information submitted will help us determine if your child meets the eligibility requirements in order to participate in the Pre-K Program. Children with the greatest need will be provided priority for program acceptance. Program acceptance is not determined until the Parent Questionnaire, ASQ and ASQ-SE forms have been submitted. Once we have reviewed your forms from Step 1 and Step 2, you will receive an email with notification with the next steps. Please note, some emails may go to Junk or Clutter, so please be checking those during this process. *Upon program acceptance, registration will be required.*

REGISTRATION

Pre-K Registration begins each spring/summer. The majority of the Pre-K registration process will be done electronically. Fill out the New Student Registration Form.

PROGRAMMING PLACEMENT

Students who qualify through the application process, due to a limited ability to speak or comprehend English, will require a language assessment. The oral language proficiency assessment will be conducted in-person.

For students 3-4 years of age with an IEP or those turning 3 with an early intervention plan, services will be provided and/or continued. Appropriate placement of services will be assessed.

PROGRAMMING PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

To take advantage of our high-quality Pre-K program, students must come to school every day. Pre-K students fall under Compulsory Attendance Law and are expected to attend school and follow the Zion Elementary District 6 Academic Calendar.

DOCUMENTATION OF STUDENT LEARNING

Portfolio

The portfolio, or family conference form, consists of a developmental checklist to allow for all children to show progress over time and describes your child's strengths as it relates to:

- Social-emotional
- Physical
- Language
- Cognitive Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Science & Technology
- Social Studies
- Arts

Portfolios are sent home four times a year; October, January, March, and May and contains a plan for supporting your child's developmental learning.

Early Childhood Environment Rating Scales [ECERS]

To ensure that children are learning in the optimal environment to be successful, our programs are evaluated by the state using ECERS. Classrooms are evaluated to make sure the environment will promote child safety and development including:

Space and Furnishings
Personal Care Routines
Language and Literacy
Learning Activities
Interaction
Program Structure

Teaching Strategies Gold

Teaching Strategies Gold is an authentic part of instruction and is embedded into everyday interactions with your child in the classroom and at home. This assessment model follows widely held expectations for children from birth to grade 3, enabling a whole child approach. Teachers capture, organize, and store notes, photos, and videos of the children's work in the moment to make observations authentic, objective, and easy to follow.

Creative Curriculum

In 2022, our Zion ESD 6 adopted the Creative Curriculum. This program builds children's confidence, creativity, and critical thinking skills through hands-on, play-based learning. The creative Curriculum provides individualized instruction based on the child's ability supporting them with the progressions that show the typical development of skills from birth to grade 3. Throughout the day, students participate in meaningful discussions and applications of math, literacy, social-emotional, physical, science and technology, social studies, and art skills