

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) About Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK)

How many UPK slots are available in the upcoming school year?

The Grand Island Central School District is expected to receive funding for approximately ninety students. All funding is dependent upon the NYS budget.

Who is eligible?

Eligible children are defined as those who reside in the Grand Island Central School District and who will be four years old on or before December 1.

What if more students apply than available placements?

If more requests for acceptance are made than can be placed, a lottery will be used to choose children for inclusion in the UPK program. All other children will be placed on a waiting list.

How many agencies/organizations will provide service?

Five, Charlotte Sidway Elementary School and four Community Based Early Childhood Centers which include Care-A-Lot Childcare Center, KinderKiddz Early Childhood Learning Center, St. Stephen School and St. Timothy Child Care Center.

Do I get to pick where my child will go?

The Lottery Registration form will include an area where you can state your preference. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee your preference will be met.

What if I have twins or triplets?

Each child requires their own individual registration and application. Each child will be entered into the lottery on an individual basis. Selection for the UPK program is exclusively based on the lottery process. If one child is selected and the other(s) is/are not, we can only offer placement to the child selected.

Are there full day sessions?

Yes, all UPK programs will be full day sessions.

How long is the program?

The full day program is 6.5 hours a day, five days a week for 180 days. Children must attend all five days. Regular attendance is mandatory.

Is transportation provided?

No.

Is there a cost associated if my child is selected to participate?

No. Participation in the UPK program is free of cost to parents/guardians for families of children who are selected by NYS Grant Funding and reside within the Grand Island Central School District.

What is the start date for the program?

The UPK attendance calendar will parallel the Grand Island Central School District instructional calendar.

Is a snack provided?

A nutritious snack is provided to students at no cost.

How many children are in a class?

UPK regulations require one certified teacher and one classroom aide for up to eighteen children. One certified teacher and two classroom aides are required for classrooms with eighteen to twenty children. Classes will have no more than twenty students.

Is there a report card?

Yes. A standard progress report is used in all agencies/organizations and can be found on our website. This progress report parallels the early childhood reports of the Grand Island CSD.

Although my child is age appropriate to attend Kindergarten, I am not sending my child this year. Are they eligible to participate in the UPK program?

No. The UPK program serves children who are four years old.

Does the School District oversee facilities and program for UPK providers?

While the District oversees NYS instructional program requirements, the providers with whom we contract are responsible for ensuring proper licensure.

Where can I find out more information?

Registration for UPK will be the same process as registration in the district. If you are interested in applying for the UPK program, please call District Office in order to set up an appointment for registration. If you have additional questions, please call the Office of Curriculum and Instruction at 716-773-8818.