



**St. Charles School District
Early Childhood Center
1323 Boone's Lick Road
St. Charles, MO 63301**



**Preschool Information Packet
2026 - 2027 School Year**

Students must be three years of age on or before July 31, 2026 and a resident of the City of St. Charles School District to enroll.

**RETURNING PRESCHOOL STUDENT ONLINE APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026.**

**NEW PRESCHOOL STUDENT ONLINE APPLICATIONS OPEN ON FEBRUARY 2, 2026.
For additional information or questions, please contact Sharon Elliott at 636.443.2905.**

The City of St. Charles School District will engage, empower, and inspire all students by providing a challenging, diverse, and innovative education. We recognize that a high-quality education must occur in a safe and nurturing environment, which is strengthened by parent involvement and community partnerships.

The early childhood preschool program offers classes that are multi-age groupings of children ages 3 - 5 years. Learning and instruction are individualized as children progress at their own rate and experience success. Research shows that when the classroom is composed of a community of learners with a range of abilities and ages, there are measurable gains in socialization, independence, and interaction with peers. Younger children will be nurtured by older children and benefit from collaborative learning. Older children will show increased levels of competence and leadership. Consideration will be given to the balancing of ages in each classroom. All classes will employ at least one certified teacher and additional adults according to Missouri State Accreditation child-to-teacher ratio.

****Accreditation****

The St. Charles School District Preschool Program is accredited by the Missouri Accreditation of Programs for Children and Youth. Following is an excerpt from a Missouri Accreditation press release: "The St. Charles R-VI School District Preschool Program achieved recognition of excellence through Missouri Accreditation. This distinguishes it as an exemplary program offering high-quality programming to the children of Missouri. The Missouri Accreditation of Programs for Children and Youth has awarded a Certificate of Accreditation to the St. Charles R-VI Preschool Program. This certificate is granted to quality programs that offer developmentally appropriate experiences in an environment conducive to children flourishing intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically. The community of St. Charles, Missouri, is fortunate to have a program such as The Charles R-VI School District Preschool Program available to serve its families."

St. Charles School District Early Childhood Center

WHAT DO WE OFFER?

The St. Charles School District Early Childhood Preschool Program is an integrated program that meets children's education needs and is developmentally appropriate for all children. Experiences are provided to stimulate learning in all five developmental areas (communication, social-emotional,

cognition, adaptive, and physical) so all children may reach their potential through developmentally appropriate activities. Each child is viewed as a unique person with an individual pattern and timing of growth and development.

WHO IS WORKING WITH YOUR CHILD?

The St. Charles School District Early Childhood Preschool Program employs certified teachers with degrees in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education. In addition to a certified teacher, each classroom has a paraprofessional who helps prepare the environment for children and facilitates their interactions with peers and adults.

WHAT IS OUR PHILOSOPHY?

The St. Charles School District Early Childhood Preschool Program operates under the philosophy that learning is child-centered, process-oriented, and choice-driven. A variety of learning opportunities are provided in the areas of language and literacy, mathematics, self and social development, and physical development. Instruction is organized in thematic units. Children learn through play in a safe environment that fosters discovery while building on each child's strengths. Teachers facilitate the development of self-control in children by using positive guidance techniques such as modeling and encouraging appropriate behaviors, redirecting, and setting clear limits.

WHAT IS OUR CURRICULUM?

The St. Charles School District Early Childhood Preschool Program implements developmentally appropriate practices within the preschool curriculum that are aligned with the Missouri Early Learning Standards and are approved by the Board of Education. The early childhood preschool implements the Project Construct curriculum and utilizes Conscious Discipline and Positive Behavior Supports. The focus is on play-based, hands-on learning through experiencing a variety of classroom activities. Each activity is chosen based on the developmental skills of children. This practice promotes independence and enhances thinking skills. The preschool site has outdoor and indoor play areas designed for young children.

PRESCHOOL REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

- Enrollment is open to children who are at least 3 years old on or before July 31, 2026 and are residents of the City of St. Charles School District.
- Parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from school.
- Parents are responsible for making sure children attend school every day.
- Parents understand that their child is expected to be fully potty-trained by their 4th birthday.
- Parents agree to automatic withdrawal of funds from a checking or savings account for monthly tuition payments.
- In order to be considered for a preschool classroom placement, children must complete the DIAL-4 developmental screening.

PRESCHOOL TIMES

Half-day, full-day, and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) 4 Day** options are available and are outlined below.

5 DAY OPTION

Full Day
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

5 DAY OPTION

Half Day Morning
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

5 DAY OPTION

Half Day Afternoon
Monday – Friday
12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

ECSE 4 DAY OPTION**

Half Day Morning
Monday – Thursday
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

ECSE 4 DAY OPTION**

Half Day Afternoon
Monday – Thursday
12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

ECSE 4 DAY OPTION**

Full Day
Monday – Thursday
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- Arrivals for the AM classes and full day classes begin at 7:45 and close at 8:01; Dismissals for the AM classes begin at 10:50 and close at 11:01
- Arrivals for the PM classes begin at 11:50 and close at 12:01; Dismissals for the PM classes and full day classes begin at 2:45 and close at 3:05

** These classes are reserved for students with Individualized Education Plans and peer models.

EXTENDED CARE

Morning Care is available for the AM half-day and full-day classrooms beginning at 6:30 a.m.
Afternoon Care is available for the PM half-day and full-day classrooms until 6:00 p.m.

PRESCHOOL REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

Tuition payment via direct debit is required.

Tuition payments are auto-debited on the 1st working business day of the month.

A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve a tuition-paying preschool spot.

The deposit will be applied to the May tuition payment.

A 10% discount is offered to district employees.

A 10% discount is offered to families with multiple ECC students.

HALF DAY PRESCHOOL TUITION 2026-2027

Half Day 5 Day Preschool is scheduled Monday - Friday

August through May	\$4,000 per year
10 Monthly Payments =	\$400

FULL DAY PRESCHOOL TUITION 2025-2026

Full Day 5 Day Preschool is scheduled Monday - Friday

August through May	\$7,100 per year
10 Monthly Payments =	\$710

FREE & REDUCED MEAL TUITION REDUCTION FULL DAY PRESCHOOL ONLY

See the Requirements to qualify for the free or reduced meal tuition reduction below.

FULL DAY PRESCHOOL FREE & REDUCED MEAL TUITION REDUCTION COMPARISON RATES

August through May	\$3,700 per year
10 Monthly Payments =	\$370

FREE & REDUCED MEAL TUITION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Reduced tuition is available for applicants qualifying for free or reduced meals. To apply for tuition reduction, families must fill out a Free and Reduced Meal application. Eligibility is verified through Chartwells Food Service. Free and Reduced eligibility must be maintained in order to continue with the reduced tuition. You will receive a Free and Reduced Meal application with your enrollment packet.

SCHOOL MEALS

ECC does not provide breakfast and/or lunch. You are welcome to purchase meals through Chartwells, the City of St. Charles food service program. Please let us know if you would like to receive more information about how to set up an account. If your family is eligible for Free and Reduced meals, you will be verified through Chartwells food service.

TITLE I FUNDING - HALF DAY PRESCHOOL ONLY

Upon receipt of your application, your child will be screened to determine whether he/she qualifies for Title I funding. The district will offer half-day preschool with 15 - 20 students attending per session. The guidelines for the Title I early childhood preschool program state that students receiving Title I funding for their preschool tuition will be enrolled based on greatest need and **must be residents of the district.** Student need is based upon multiple criteria, including performance on the DIAL-4 Assessment. These positions are offered free of charge through Title I funding. The number of Title I preschool slots are dependent upon federal funding and may vary from year to year. Once the Title I positions have been determined and filled, open tuition spaces may remain. In order to continue qualifying for a Title I preschool position, students must maintain an average attendance rate of 95%.

2026-2027 EXTENDED CHILD CARE

High quality child care for preschool students is offered to complement the preschool day. Availability is limited to a first-come, first-serve basis.

Extended Child Care Times

The following schedule is offered dependent upon meeting minimum student enrollment numbers.

Preschool Option	AM Extended Care	PM Extended Care
HALF DAY AM Classroom	Begins at 6:30 a.m.	Not Available
HALF DAY PM Classroom	Not Available	Until 6:00 p.m.
FULL DAY Classroom	Begins at 6:30 a.m.	Until 6:00 p.m.

Extended Child Care Tuition Rates

Hours Available	Yearly Fees August through May	10 Equal Payments
Begins 6:30 am	\$1,650	\$165
Until 6:00 pm	\$2,250	\$225
Both AM and PM	\$2,850	\$285

In order to maintain high quality before/after care for your child, we are unable to prorate or reduce before/after care rates.

For further information regarding extended child care options, please contact Sharon Elliott at 636-443-2905.

Payment Requirements for Extended Child Care

Payment via direct debit is required.

Tuition payments are auto-debited on the 1st working business day of the month, August through May.

LATE PICK UP OF YOUR CHILD FROM PM EXTENDED CHILD CARE

PM Extended Child Care ends at 6:00 p.m. If you cannot adhere to the program hours, your child may be asked to forego their space in the aftercare program.

ONLINE APPLICATION FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR:

Beginning January 5, returning SCSD ECC families will receive the application from their classroom teacher.

Beginning February 2nd, the application will be available through our school's website for district residents.