

**Preschool FAQ**  
**January 2026**

At a celebratory event held at our own [Estelle V. Malberg Early Childhood Center](#) on October 18, 2023, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) announced that 26 school districts, including the Cherry Hill Public Schools, will receive Preschool Education Expansion (PEA) Expansion.

For your information, below is a list of frequently asked questions.

Question	Response
<p>When does Registration open for preschool?</p>	<p>Registration for Preschool for the 2026-2027 school year will open on <b>February 2</b> and close on <b>February 13, 2026</b>. Registration is done completely online. The process takes approximately 1 hour. You are encouraged to gather all required documents in advance so you are able to upload them. All Registration Information can be found at</p> <p><a href="https://www.chclc.org/departments/registration/registration-home/public-school-registration-for-cherry-hill-residents">https://www.chclc.org/departments/registration/registration-home/public-school-registration-for-cherry-hill-residents</a> - what you need to gather</p> <p><a href="https://www.chclc.org/departments/registration/registration-home">https://www.chclc.org/departments/registration/registration-home</a> - begin registration process</p>
<p>When will families be notified of acceptance or waitlist status?</p>	<p>Families will be notified in late April/ May of acceptance or waitlist status. Parents will have approximately 2 weeks to accept or decline the program.</p>
<p>How does the selection process work?</p>	<p>We acknowledge that the waitlist process can be a source of anxiety for parents and we're doing our best to ensure transparency and fairness.</p> <p>We aim to create balanced classrooms that cater to the diverse needs of our students. Factors such as home address, future elementary school, student age, among others, are taken into account.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize an electronic randomization platform</li> <li>• All students are assigned a number</li> <li>• Numbers are randomly selected (not in numerical order or in order of registration)</li> <li>• Families are offered a seat in our preschool program</li> <li>• Multiple staff oversee the process to to ensure fidelity</li> </ul> <p>It may help to think of this process similarly to getting on a waitlist for a table at a restaurant. Having one's name called for a table at a restaurant depends not only on the order one signed up, but on the availability of the size of the table, the availability of a server for the table, and any special needs the customer requires.</p> <p>With preschool expansion we have 5 years to provide preschool services to all 3 and 4 year old Cherry Hill residents. Each year, we will add additional classrooms until we are able to serve all preschool aged students. If children are waitlisted, families will have to seek alternative options for preschool education.</p> <p>If you have twins and one is selected for the program, the other will</p>

	automatically get a seat.
What are the preschool hours?	The preschool program is from 9:30am - 3:30pm daily.
Do students need to be potty trained?	No, students are not required to be potty trained but a toileting routine is encouraged and followed at school.
My child is in Preschool 3 this year, so they need another year of preschool. If we accept a spot for this school year, are we guaranteed a space for next school year as well? Or will we be back in the lottery for the next year?	Yes, once a student is awarded a slot, they are guaranteed a slot in the program until they transition to full day kindergarten.
Will parents be able to self-select the private provider location and teacher?	<p>Parents will not be able to self select the private provider location. Students will be assigned to private provider locations based on their home address. Additionally, bus routes will factor into location assignments. If you are eligible for Head Start, your child will be assigned to the Head Start provider site.</p> <p>Parents will not be able to self select the classroom teacher.</p>
Who are the private providers and how were they selected?	<p>The private providers selected to partner with Cherry Hill Public Schools are:</p> <p>Cadence Academy  Discovery Corner Childcare  KinderCare  Mosaic Early Learning (Head Start) - Oaklyn, NJ  Additional private providers will be added.</p> <p>The District has hosted private provider meetings to solicit partnerships with all Cherry Hill based private providers. This included private, big box(franchise), independently owned, and religious based programs. All were offered the opportunity to partner with the District. The NJDOE requires that anyone receiving Preschool Expansion Aid demonstrates due diligence in outreach for partnerships with community providers to ensure there will be enough preschool classrooms to serve the 3 and 4 year old population.</p>
Are the private providers vetted?	Yes, each of the private providers is vetted and must be approved by the New Jersey Department of Education. The private providers must follow the Cherry Hill Public Schools instructional day of 6 hours, curricular requirements, school calendar, adhere to district policies, eliminate all religious educational components, certification guidelines for certificated staff, etc... Compliance of the areas above will be closely monitored by school district officials.
Will the private providers offer before	Yes, each of the private providers offer before and aftercare programs.

and aftercare?	
Will the before and after school programs have certified staff working and will the programs follow a specific program?	The before and after school programs will be staffed by the private providers. Before and after school programs have staffing guidelines and program expectations. The providers will be able answer this question once assigned.
Will I be able to tour the private provider location?	Yes, tours will be available. Parents/ guardians will be able to tour the facility prior to accepting the preschool seat.
Is there any cost associated with registration or attendance ?	There are no costs associated with registration or attendance for preschool. With the awarding of the preschool expansion aid, all costs are covered for students.  Please know that there will be a cost for before and aftercare which is not covered under preschool expansion aid.
Will transportation be provided?	Yes, transportation will be provided for students who meet the policy requirements.
Will all staff be Cherry Hill Public School staff, even if located at a private provider?	The staff employed by the provider will be provider employees. The private providers need to follow Cherry Hill guidelines for staffing.
If you decide to not attend this academic year, do you go back into the lottery for next school year?	Yes.
Once enrolled, you are guaranteed a spot for the following year, would that be at the same provider?	Yes.
Will the students be mixed in classes with other students enrolled at the private providers?	No, all students at the private provider sites must be Cherry Hill residents.
Are meals provided?	Yes, a snack and lunch are provided daily at the private provider locations (Cadence, Kindercare, Discovery) however parents may pack from home.

	<p>Mosaic Early Learning provides breakfast, lunch, and a snack. <b>No outside food is allowed at this location.</b></p> <p>Malberg Early Childhood Center and Kilmer Preschool - students may purchase lunch / snacks or bring from home.</p>
<p>Are there plans to change the start and end time ? The current 9:30am start is a bit late for many parents, especially those that need to get to work. It also makes dismissal difficult when you have students in an elementary school being dismissed at the same time. Bussing is not always an option and it is impossible to be at 2 different schools for dismissal at the same time.</p>	<p>At this time, there are no plans to change the start and end times for the preschool program. Cherry Hill Public Schools do not own school buses. The District works with private transportation companies to provide services to over 8k students on a daily basis. The start and end times for each level (Preschool, Elementary, Middle, High) are tiered to provide adequate drop off and pick up times.</p>
<p>I see that we are automatically enrolled in the same location between years. Can we opt to be at a different location instead? I would like to transfer my current Malberg student to any of the private providers next year so we can have access to before/after care.</p>	<p>At this time, we plan to have students maintain enrollment at their assigned location as a 3 year old and 4 year old.</p>
<p>What type of security will be added to each location? Such as cameras or a call bell?</p>	<p>The private providers have camera systems, locked doors, and call bells. The private provider sites were visited by Cherry Hill Public Schools Director of Security to provide feedback on the security protocols in place. All private providers will follow all of the safety and security protocols required by the state DOE.</p>
<p>My daughter currently attends one of the preschools that is in the expansion. Will I have to register her for the CH school district? Will she be guaranteed a spot at the current preschool she is attending?</p>	<p>All families will need to initially complete our district application for preschool placement. If a spot is available for your child, you will receive a commitment form to return and notify us if you are accepting or declining placement. Once we receive the commitment form, you will be required to fully register your child with Cherry Hill Public Schools. All families accepted in the program are asked to complete registration information for the District at <a href="http://www.chclc.org">www.chclc.org</a>. - Registration tab. We are unable to make final placement decisions until students are fully registered.</p> <p>Spots are not guaranteed at a specific private provider site. We do recognize the importance of maintaining continuity and consistency of program for our youngest learners, but spots will not be guaranteed.</p>

<p>My child is turning one at the end of January. When do I put him on the waitlist for PreSchool? Is it something I should do years in advance or the year they are three turning four?</p>	<p>The application process is held each year only for students who are age eligible to attend that fall. There is no waitlist for children too young to attend preschool that fall. If a waitlist is necessary, it will be open when registration opens. <b>The opening date for Registration is February 2, 2026.</b> Students who age 3 or 4 before October 1st in the school year they plan to attend are eligible to register.</p>
<p>If my child is enrolled in a private daycare (toddler aged room) at one of the selected provider sites, will he automatically get placed there when he is 3? Or will I still need to enter the lottery?</p>	<p>You would still need to apply and go through the selection process. A seat is not promised because your child is already attending the center.</p>
<p>Who do I contact if my child will be absent?</p>	<p>Contact the preschool location. Absences are monitored by the site locations. You are encouraged to report absences, late arrivals, early dismissals and/or vacation leaves to ensure proper recording of attendance. The provider sites will be connected to our system so we will know in real time if your child is absent.</p>
<p>Will I receive information regarding nap time supplies, general school supplies, how the teachers communicate with parents, etc..</p>	<p>Yes, this information will be shared by the preschool site.</p>
<p>What curriculum is used?</p>	<p>All preschool sites use Creative Curriculum.</p>