

WCSD 2026-2027 Program Information

Westlake City Schools' state-required kindergarten program is a half-day program. An optional full-day, tuition-based program is also available.

Benefits of the Full-Day Program: Students in the full-day program work on the same curriculum standards as students in the half-day program. However, the full-day program allows class time for additional practice, reinforcement, intervention, and extensions. Half-day students will require these types of supports at home with parental assistance. It is important to note that throughout your child's schooling, a partnership with parents to reinforce classroom education at home is essential and will still be necessary for full-day students. However, the full-day program provides more time in the school day to implement student-specific instruction to meet individual needs. If you have further questions about whether the full-day option is best for your child, please contact Ms. Paula Shaw, Preschool and Kindergarten House Principal.

Half-Day Program: When registering for kindergarten with Westlake City Schools, you are automatically registering your child in the half-day program. **Once *a class section has reached the 25 student limit, that section may be capped and students enrolling after that time may be assigned to another section of that grade level.*** As such, the date and time of your completed registration may impact which half day section (AM or PM) your child will be assigned to attend for the upcoming school year.

Academic state standards are the same for the half-day program and the full-day program. As always, we partner with families and ask that parents assist with reinforcing at home what is taught in the classroom.

Tuition-Based Full-Day Kindergarten Option: Tuition is required for all students enrolled in the full-day option. Tuition for Westlake City Schools' full-day program is $2,500 per student for the 2026-2027 school year. **A $250 non-refundable deposit is required no later than March 31, 2026 paid by check or money order only.** Checks and money orders should be made out to Westlake Board of Education. **The remaining tuition balance of $2,250.00 must be paid in full no later than August 1st, 2026 to participate in the full-day program.** Please include the student's first and last name in the memo section of your check or money order.

Please note: The option to pay the remaining tuition balance by credit card will only be available through PaySchoolsCentral.com. **Our credit card option only exists for the remaining tuition balance, not the deposit.** You will need your students' ID number to register on PayschoolsCentral and pay online. New students will not have active ID numbers until the middle of July. For new students, please follow these steps to create an account. Log onto PayschoolsCentral.com, click Register and create an account. You may apply for free and reduced tuition at this time. More information below. Once you are completely registered and ready to pay, select the Kindergarten Tuition Fee under All Fees. Any questions, please call the District Registrar, Monica Verchick, at 440-250-1270.

Reduced tuition rates are available for families that qualify under the Federal Lunch Program.

Hard copies of the lunch program application may be obtained on the Food Services web page https://www.wlake.org/departments/food-services or via email to Lisa Zuk at zuk@wlake.org.

Pre-Applications, before July 1st, must be approved prior to the full tuition balance due date of August 1st.

All families, new and returning, will need to re-submit an official 2026-2027 application and re-qualify for the lunch program after July 1st, 2026.

Federal Lunch and Tuition Program digital application: https://www.PaySchoolsCentral.com

Save the Date:

• **Submit your Kindergarten paperwork no later than March 31st, 2026.** We will accept registrations after this deadline, however, program placement is not guaranteed and will be on a first come first serve basis.

• **Full-Day non-refundable deposit is due no later than March 31st, 2026** (payable by check or money order only to "Westlake Board of Education"). **Remaining tuition balance is due no later than August 1st, 2026.**

• **Kindergarten School Entrance Exam paperwork is to be submitted no later than August 1st, 2026.** If your child has their physician appointment over the summer, you may drop off or mail the Kindergarten School Entrance Exam and current Immunization record to the Westlake Board of Education, c/o Monica Verchick, 24365 Hilliard Blvd., Westlake, OH 44145.

Kindergarten Screening, Kindergarten Open House, and First Day of School for Kindergarten

Students will participate in a kindergarten screening where teachers will assess kindergarten readiness skills. Parents will select a day and time for screening in an email from Pre-K/K secretary Mrs. McLoughlin.

- **Kindergarten Screening**
  - Parents will sign up for a 1 hour screening appointment on *either* **August 18th or August 19th.**
  - Parents will participate in an informational meeting during their child's screening appointment.
- **Kindergarten Open House**
  - **Full Day and Half Day AM** classes will have Open House on **August 24th from 9:30-10:30 AM.**
  - Open House for **Half Day PM** class will be on **August 24th from 12:30-1:30 PM**.
- **First Day of Kindergarten**
  - The first day for all kindergarten students is **Tuesday, August 25th!**