



CSH Universal Pre-Kindergarten

FAQs 2026-2027

1. Is the Pre-K program free?

The program is funded through a New York State grant and supported with additional district funds. There is no cost to the families other than providing lunch and transportation. The grant provides funding for Pre-K students to attend a program for five (5) hours a day, five (5) days a week for the school year.

2. Who is eligible to participate?

Children who turn 4 years of age by December 1, 2026 and are residents of the Cold Spring Harbor Central School District are eligible to participate. There are no exceptions to the December 1 cutoff date. Students who are eligible for kindergarten are not eligible for UPK. To apply, you must fill out the Pre-K Lottery Application located on [HERE](#) and submit the electronic form by Friday, December 12, 2025 by 4:00 p.m. No exceptions.

3. What is the application process?

If interested, please click [here](#) and fill out the CSH CSD Pre-K Lottery Application. The application is also accessible through the District's website. Once again, the deadline to submit is **Friday, December 12, 2025 by 4:00 p.m.** No applications will be accepted after this date/time. Please note that submitting the application does not guarantee placement into the program. If your child is selected through the lottery system, you must complete the required registration process with the District.

4. Can all district 4-year olds attend?

No. New York State allocates funds for a certain number of children to attend. Cold Spring Harbor is able to accommodate up to two classrooms with a total of 36 students. The grant regulations stipulate that a random selection method be used. Therefore, a lottery will be held on **Thursday, January 8, 2025** at the District Office at 2:00 p.m. Anyone who applied can attend. We will select names to fill the 18-36 spaces, and continue to select names which will be placed on a waiting list. If placements are refused or vacancies occur during the year, they will be filled from the waiting list until it is exhausted. Additionally, each class must be completed enrolled in order to run each individual class.

5. How will the lottery be conducted?

Each child will be assigned a number upon the completion of the application process and numbers will be chosen through a random lottery system.



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6. How will I find out if my child is selected?

You can attend the lottery drawing on January 8, 2025 in the District Office at 2:00 p.m. All families will receive notification of either acceptance or waitlist spot number. For those selected, the email notification will include next steps to take. The email will also include anticipated program hours, along with information about the required registration documentation. UPK registration will take place immediately **following acceptance to the program** via an online portal known **eSchoolData** and **Operoo**, our document submission program. All required documents indicated below must be submitted through Operoo. Hard copies dropped off at District Office will not be accepted. If the registration requirements are not met by Wednesday, April 1, 2025, those students will be removed from the program and replaced with those from the waiting list.

7. What if my child was not selected in the lottery?

Anyone who was not selected in the lottery will be placed on a waiting list. If for any reason someone who is selected in the lottery is unable to complete the registration process, the next person on the waiting list will be notified. If the attendance requirements are not met throughout the year, a seat may open up during the school year and the waiting list will be utilized once again.

8. I have twins and completed the Pre-K Lottery Application for each of them. If only one of them is randomly selected, will they both be given a spot?

The lottery selection process does not give preference to families with twins, triplets, etc. Each child is entered as an individual student and will be selected at random. The selection of one twin or triplet has no effect on the selection number of any other siblings during the lottery selection process.

9. What days are the children off from school?

The program follows the Cold Spring Harbor CSD calendar. Children must attend the program five (5) days a week for the entire school year. All holidays and recess periods will follow the school district calendar which will be posted on the district website.

10. Where is the program located?

The program will be provided in the district, but the school locations have not yet been determined as of this publication.



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11. Can we choose the school we want our child to attend?

No; however, once locations have been determined, we will ask for your preference, and do our best to accommodate those requests (if the classes are in different buildings).

12. My child was selected for the Pre-K program. Can I send him or her three days a week instead of five?

No. Partial participation is prohibited. Children must attend five days a week and meet the minimum attendance standards.

13. What kind of curriculum is taught in the Pre-K program?

The curriculum will follow the New York State Education Department Prekindergarten Early Learning Standards in accordance with the five(5) domains below. More information can be found on our website under **Pre-Kindergarten Information** or through the accompanying link: [NYSED Pre-K Early Learning Standards](#)

- Domain 1: Approaches to Learning
- Domain 2: Physical Development and Health
- Domain 3: Social Emotional Learning
- Domain 4: Communication, Language and Literacy
- Domain 5: Cognition and Knowledge of the World (Math, Science, Social Studies, The Arts, Technology, Computer Science, and Digital Literacy)

14. Is transportation provided?

No, transportation is not provided. Transportation to and from the program is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

15. Is before and/or after school care available for students in the program?

Not at this time.

16. Who will be teaching students in the CSH UPK Program?

Each available class of 18 pre-k students will receive instruction by one NYS certified classroom teacher who holds a certificate in Early Childhood Education (birth-grade 2) and one NYS certified teaching assistant.



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17. What documents are required for the registration process if my child is randomly selected through the lottery?

If your child is selected, the documents listed below are required and must be submitted to the District Registrar:

1. Proof of Residency #1 (Tax bill, mortgage statement, deed, lease)
2. Proof of Residency #2 (Utility bills)
3. Proof of Birth (Certificate or Passport)
4. Photo ID for parent
5. Student Racial & Ethnic Identification
6. Custody Papers or any other legal documents, if applicable*
7. Student Health History Form
8. Immunization Record (Completed and signed by Physician)
9. Physical (Completed and signed by Physician)
10. Dental Form (not mandatory)

*All Guardian Information must appear on application, regardless of marital status - unless a legal document states otherwise.

18. Will a snack and lunch be provided?

No, parents must provide their child with both a snack and a lunch. Purchases can be made through our school lunch program.

19. Should my child be toilet trained?

A child will not face rejection if they have not yet mastered toilet training; however, we strongly advise that your child be toilet trained. If you haven't commenced potty training your child, we highly recommend initiating the process. Toilet training is a developmental milestone attained by each child at their own pace and cannot be rushed. Should assistance be required, our staff will aid families in formulating a plan to promote independent toilet use by the child. Toilet training is a unique learning journey for every child, and occasional accidents are to be expected. Hence, we request that every child has a spare change of clothes accessible at school.

20. What are the immunization requirements?

Children must meet NYS immunization requirements. Children must receive all first age/grade level appropriate doses or overdue follow-up doses if they already received initial doses in a series within 14 days from the first day of instruction for the school year. They must provide evidence of age-appropriate appointments for the subsequent follow-up doses, per the ACIP schedule, within 30 days of the first day of attendance. Note: Students will not be able to attend our UPK Program unless their immunizations are up to date as per the NYS guidelines. New York State no longer offers a religious exemption for immunizations. For more information on required immunizations, please read the [2025-26 School Year New York State Immunization Requirements for School Entrance/Attendance](#)