

Cedar Rapids Community School District

# ALTERNATIVE KINDERGARTEN & PRESCHOOL

*2027-2028*

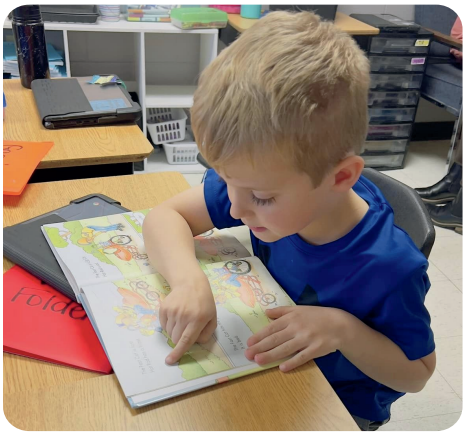
As part of Cedar Rapids Community School District's reconfiguration work for the 2027–2028 school year, we are expanding Preschool and Alternative Kindergarten (AK) programming across our elementary schools to ensure equitable access for families across all regions of our district, while maintaining strong support for staff throughout this transition. Every elementary building hosting preschool will feature dedicated, age-appropriate early learning environments, including specialized preschool playground equipment and play areas.

As some of our elementary buildings retire at the end of this school year, existing early childhood resources are being reallocated across new elementary sites. Meanwhile, Truman Early Learning Center will remain open next school year and will retire once all preschool programming has fully transitioned into our elementary schools.

The details below outline our programming models and proposed classroom locations across the district.

## CRCSD ALTERNATIVE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMMING

Our full-day Alternative Kindergarten (AK) program provides a supportive, growth-centered environment that gives eligible 5-year-olds an extra year to build foundational academic, social, and emotional skills before entering traditional kindergarten. By combining structured literacy and math instruction with play-based learning, AK helps students build essential skills and confidence for long-term school success.



For 2027–2028, we remain fully committed to maintaining four total AK classrooms while expanding locations from three buildings to four. Spreading these four classrooms across four distinct elementary sites ensures AK programming is geographically accessible across all areas of our district.

## 2027-2028 ALTERNATIVE KINDERGARTEN LOCATIONS & SCHEDULES

### Locations

**Trailside Elementary School** - Area 1
**Hoover Community School** - Area 2
**Pierce Elementary School**- Area 3
**Maple Grove Elementary School**- Area 3

### Schedule

**Days:** Monday - Friday
**Calendar:** Follows the district calendar

*Note: Locations and class offerings may be adjusted based on student enrollment*

# CRCSD PRESCHOOL PROGRAMMING

Our preschool program offers a caring, play-based environment that nurtures early academic, social, and emotional growth and builds essential problem-solving, communication, and independence skills, laying a strong foundation for future learning. For 2027–2028, we are expanding our preschool locations to 11 of our 13 elementary schools and Truman Early Learning Center, reallocating existing staffing resources from retiring buildings to new elementary locations. Preschool is available for students who turn 4 on or before September 15, 2027. To meet family needs, we offer both half-day and full-day programs, along with full-day pay-to-stay programs supported by partnerships with organizations like Head Start, Champions, and local daycare centers to provide wraparound care.



## PRESCHOOL SCHEDULE

**Days:** Monday - Thursday

**Calendar:** Follows district's preschool calendar



## 2027-2028 PRESCHOOL LOCATIONS

### TRUMAN EARLY LEARNING CENTER PRESCHOOLS

- Full-Day Classes
- Half-Day Classes (AM & PM)
- Significant disabilities programming offered
- Headstart and Champions wraparound care

### AREA 1 PRESCHOOLS

**Johnson STEAM Academy**
- Half-Day Class (AM & PM)
- Headstart wraparound care

**Erskine Elementary**
- Full-Day Class

**Grant Wood Elementary**
- Full-Day Classes

**Trailside Elementary**
- Half-Day Class (AM & PM)
- Close to community childcare for wraparound care options

### AREA 2 PRESCHOOLS

**Belmont Park Elementary**
- Half-Day Class (AM & PM)
- Champions wraparound care

**Hoover Community School**
- Half-Day Class (AM & PM)

**Meadow Creek Elementary**
- Half-Day Class (AM & PM)
- Headstart wraparound care

**West Willow Elementary**
- Half-Day Classes (AM & PM)
- Champions wraparound care

### AREA 3 PRESCHOOLS

**Hiawatha Elementary**
- Half-Day Class (AM & PM)
- Signif. Disabilities programming

**Maple Grove Elementary**
- Half-Day Class (AM & PM)
- Champions wraparound care

**Kenwood Leadership Academy**
- Half-Day Class (AM & PM)
- Close to community childcare for wraparound care options





**Locations and class offerings may be adjusted based on student enrollment*