



**Hoke County Schools
NC Pre-Kindergarten Program
Frequently Asked Questions
February 1, 2024**

The North Carolina Pre-kindergarten Program (NC Pre-K) is designed to provide high-quality educational experiences to enhance school readiness for eligible four-year-old children. The NC Pre-K Program requirements and standards are built on the premise that to be academically successful in school, children need to be prepared in the five domains of development and learning. The National Education Goals Panel developed the five domains of learning; Approaches to Play and Learning, Emotional and Social Development, Health and Physical Development, Language Development and Communication, and Cognitive Development, which are critical to children’s overall well-being and success in reading and math as they enter school.

1. What are the eligibility requirements for the NC Pre-K program?

- a) **Age Requirements** – to be considered for enrollment, a child must be four-years-old on or before August 31st of the current program year.
- b) **Income Requirements** – sufficient income documentation must be submitted at the time of the application for verification, calculation, and to accurately project the family’s yearly earnings.
- c) **Residency Requirements** - families must reside in Hoke County and provide proof of residence. Students must be full time Hoke County resides.

2. What if my child missed the age- requirement cutoff- date to attend the NC Pre-K program, by a few days? Can a waiver or exception be granted?

A child must be four years old on or before August 31, 2024. Children who are not age eligible cannot be served in the NC Pre-K program with NC Pre-K funds.

3. When will the NC Pre-K applications be available?

Pre-K Application Request Forms will be available March 1, 2024. Since we are not hosting large group Pre-K Application events or designated dates to apply, we are asking parents to complete a NC Pre-K Application Request form online or call the school for assistance. Once the form is completed, someone from the school will contact the parent to schedule an appointment to complete the NC Pre-K application process and submit the required documentation.

4. Will the NC Pre-k application be on the Hoke County Schools website?

Yes, the NC Pre-K application will be available March 1, 2024, on the Hoke County Schools website (www.hcs.k12.nc.us) under Department/Pre-Kindergarten/Parent Resources/Application Information.

- a) Download and complete the entire application. The application will not be processed if the application is incomplete and/or missing required documents.
- b) Applications may be hand delivered to the elementary school in your attendance zone by calling the school to schedule an appointment. You may also call the NC Pre-K Office at 910-875-2416 ext. 234 to schedule an appointment to hand deliver your packet. If hand delivered, the application and all required documentation must be in an envelope with the parent/guardian's name, address, and contact information clearly written on the envelope.
- c) NC Pre-K Applications with supporting documentation may be mailed to:

Hoke County Schools
North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Office
310 Wooley Street
Raeford, NC 28376

5. What is the closing date for Pre-K applications?

NC Pre-K applications are accepted throughout the school year. If you are currently, residing in Hoke County, in order to be considered for placement in August 2024, an application will need to be submitted to the Pre-K Office with all required documents to determine eligibility on or before April 14, 2024.

6. What information is needed when applying for the Pre-K program?

The following documents are required along with the application: **(1)** copy of child's certified birth certificate, **(2)** immunization records, **(3)** proof of residence/address [mortgage statement/rental contract], **(4)** current electric bill/water bill, **(5)** current identification, AND **(6)** most recent proof of income.

For Proof of Income, one of the following must be submitted to reflect all sources of income:

- pay Stubs: Weekly- 4 consecutive pays stubs , OR Bi-weekly- 2 consecutive pay stubs, OR Twice-monthly- 2 consecutive pays stubs, OR Monthly – at least 1 full month's pay stub(s)
- 2023 W-2s
- self-employed individuals 1040 or 1099 form
- employer statements
- disability
- military current LES statement
- child support statements

7. Will a child be considered for the Pre-K program if the parents are unemployed or have no documentation of income?

Yes, the child will be considered for the NC Pre-K program. However, if a family states that they do not have any income to report or do not have documentation of income, a member of Hoke County Schools NC Pre-k Contracting Agency will need to verify the family's signed, written

statement before the application is processed and the child is determined eligible for the NC Pre-K program.

- 8. When and how will the parents know if their child has been selected to be served in the NC Pre-K program?** A phone call will be the primary source of notification. Parents will receive a phone call to notify them of their child's eligibility status and to confirm acceptance. After the parent/guardian confirms acceptance into the program, then a notification of placement or waiting list status letter will be mailed in late July/early August.

PLEASE KEEP ALL PHONE NUMBERS and ADDRESSES CURRENT! Call the NC Pre-K Office (910-875-2416 ext. 234) to REPORT any changes.

- 9. If a child is selected to attend the NC Pre-K program, will transportation be provided?**

Hoke County Schools Department of Transportation will transport NC Pre-K children, if they are attending one of Hoke County's public schools and reside in their home school's assigned attendance transport zone.

- 10. Is student reassignment offered to Pre-K students?**

Due to the limited number of NC Pre-K classes and available slots at each school, reassignment between public schools for NC Pre-K students will not be honored. However, placement at a private NC Pre-K setting may be considered if openings are available.

- 11. Will Pre-K students be able to attend the After School Child Care Program?**

Wraparound Services (Before and After school Care) is not offered for Pre-K students attending Hoke County public schools. The after school program is designed for school-age children, starting with Kindergarten, ages 5 through 12 years.

- 12. What documents are required after a child has been selected for the NC Pre-K program?**

A health assessment is required to be on file at the NC Pre-K site within 30 days after a child enters the NC Pre-K program. The health assessment must have been conducted within 12 months of program entry. The health provider is responsible for making appropriate referrals as indicated by the health assessment. The health assessment must include the following: **(1) Physical examination (2) Updated immunizations (3) Vision screening (4) Hearing screening, and (5) Dental screening**

- 13. What will happen if a child is eligible for the NC Pre-K program and all the spaces are filled?**

If the child is eligible to be served in the NC Pre-K program, he/she will be placed on a waiting list. Parents will be notified of openings in their home school attendance area or a private site.

- 14. Where can parents find an application for the NC Pre-K program?**

Applications are available at each elementary school, on the HOKE COUNTY SCHOOLS website under Departments/Pre-Kindergarten, at the Pre-K Office (upstairs Turlington room 214), and at the Transition Center for ELL parents needing assistance.