



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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NEWS RELEASE

Washington Township Schools Opens Enrollment for 2025-26 Free, Integrated Preschool Program; Closes February 12th

For Immediate Release
January 28, 2025

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP – Washington Township residents who are interested in enrolling their three-year-old and/or four-year-old child in the Washington Township Public Schools’ tuition-free, five-day integrated preschool program are encouraged to [complete a signup form online](#) from today until February 12, 2025, for an upcoming lottery. The lottery is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2025, and will be hosted on the District’s YouTube channel live at 6:30 p.m.

This fall, with a desire to continue expanding the program, preschool students will be enrolled at Grenloch Terrace Early Childhood Center and at Kindle Elementary School in Pitman (211 Washington Avenue, Pitman), where we have contracted to host our program with full Washington Township teachers and staff. Additionally, we house classrooms at several private provider locations in Washington Township. Those locations are finalized after the state budget is approved in the spring, and we will utilize a second lottery at that time to fill those spots.

During the lottery signup process, families will be asked to select their preferred choice of venue between Grenloch Terrace and Kindle. If their first choice is full, they will be placed at the other location. **If a family selects that they only want one location, and that location is full when their name is pulled, they will be placed on a waitlist for their top choice only. They will not be eligible for the other location.**

Admission slots will be made available to 82 preschool three-year-old students and 22 preschool four-year-old students into the program at GTECC, and 68 preschool three-year-old-students and 40 preschool four-year-old students at Kindle Elementary. The program in both locations will follow the same curriculum, allowing typically developing children and children with disabilities to learn together in the same environment.

The full-day program, which is funded by the Preschool Education Aid (PEA) grant from the New Jersey Department of Education’s Division of Early Childhood Education (DECE), will run Monday through Friday from 8:45 a.m. to 2:55 p.m. (with allotted nap time) and will follow the District’s school calendar. The preschool play-based program is structured to meet the social, emotional, physical, communication and cognitive needs of the students by teaching developmentally appropriate skill areas that are embedded throughout the curriculum. The PEA does not apply to preschool children with disabilities, as their programming is supported through state aid, including funding through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

“Our preschool expansion continues to be embraced by our community, and we are pleased to expand our universe again in 2025-26, providing even more opportunity for our youngest learners,” District Director of Elementary Education Gretchen Gerber said. “The long-term goal of the PEA grant is to continue to expand

our programming each year to ultimately offer preschool to at least 90 percent of our community's three- and four-year-old students by 2027."

Families interested in enrolling in the 212 slots of the preschool lottery (150 three-year-old slots/62 four-year-old slots) should submit their child's information immediately via the Google Form linked here (ADD LINK). **NOTE: Do not complete registration through Genesis on the wtps.org website. The portal for 2025-26 will be open to lottery winners in the days following the lottery.** The District also will compile a waitlist of students in the event of cancellations by the initial lottery winners and/or the receipt of further grant funds. The deadline to be considered for the preschool lottery is 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

Any submissions for the lottery completed after 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, will not be included in the drawing. Any duplicate submissions also will be removed.

Once all lottery submissions have been gathered, families will receive details via email about the selection process for the February 20th lottery drawing, which will be shown on the District's YouTube channel live at 6:30 p.m. and shared with the community. Only families of multiples (i.e. twins or triplets who share the same birthdate), who successfully secure one lottery spot, will have the option to enroll all of their children into the program.

Students enrolling in the program must meet the following three requirements:

- Students must be the designated age of the class on or before October 1, 2025;
- Students must be residents of Washington Township (proof of residency will be required);
- Students must have up-to-date immunizations

Please note that before- and after-school care will be available at both locations. Information and pricing will be forthcoming. Transportation cannot be guaranteed at this time.

Please [click here](#) to access Frequently Asked Questions on the District's Preschool Program.

Please [click here](#) to review more information on our preschool curriculum.

Please direct questions on the lottery process and pre-registration to Matt Pesyna in the District Registration Office, at 856-589-6644, x6698.

Questions on Washington Township's integrated preschool program? Please contact Gretchen Gerber, Director of Elementary Education, at 856-589-6644, x6341.

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