

# WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP NEWS

For Immediate Release  
January 19, 2023

## ***WTPS Pre-Registration Lottery for 2023-24 Free Integrated Preschool Program Now Open, Closing January 31, 2023***

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 pre-register online from today until January 31, 2023, for an upcoming lottery. **The lottery is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2023, and will be hosted on the District's YouTube channel live at 5:30 p.m.**

Beginning in the fall, and because of a desire to continue expanding the program, preschool students will be enrolled at Grenloch Terrace Early Childhood Center or in two classrooms that will be housed at the Learn With Me Daycare (470 Delsea Drive, #9327, Sewell, NJ 08080). During the lottery pre-registration process, families will be asked to rank their choice of venue.

Admission slots will be made available to 72 preschool three-year-old students and 32 preschool four-year-old students into the program at GTECC, and 13 preschool three-year-old-students and 13 preschool four-year-old students at Learn With Me Daycare. 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).

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"Our preschool expansion continues to be embraced by our community, and we are pleased to partner with Learn With Me Daycare in 2023 to provide 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 three- and four-year-old students by 2027."

**Families interested in enrolling in the 130 slots of the preschool lottery (85 three-year-old slots/ 45 four-year-old slots) should submit their child's information immediately via the District's [Registration Page](#). 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 8 a.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 2023.**

**Any pre-registrations for the lottery submitted after 8 a.m. on January 31, 2023, will not be included in the drawing. Any duplicate submissions also will be removed.**

Once pre-registered, families will receive details via email about the selection process for the February 7th lottery drawing, which will be shown on the District's YouTube Channel Live at 5:30 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, 2023;
- 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 a video that addresses 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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