

Private Preschool Classrooms – Frequently Asked Questions

Is the Curriculum the same at every location?

Yes. All private provider locations will follow the preschool curriculum established by the Washington Township Public Schools. The preschool play-based program, called Creative Curriculum, is structured to meet the social, emotional, physical, communication, and cognitive needs of students by teaching developmentally appropriate skill areas that are embedded throughout the curriculum.

Will staff at the private provider locations be Washington Township Public Schools teachers?

Staff employed by the private providers will be provider employees. All locations must follow WTPS guidelines for staffing and will be tasked to teach our curriculum. Therefore, all teachers will have New Jersey Teacher Certification in PreK-3.

If my child already has a spot at ECC/Kindle from the February lottery, may I still be in this lottery?

No. Students who already have been selected through the February lottery must attend those locations and are not eligible for this lottery.

Will parents be able to self-select the location they would like their child to attend?

Parents will not be able to self-select. WTPS administration will assign lottery winners to their locations after the lottery is complete. We will make our best effort to place students in the available location closest to their residence. However, no exceptions can be made.

If my child is selected in the lottery and I do not want the location I've been assigned, what happens?

Parents who do not wish to have their child attend their assigned location have the option of forfeiting their spot and moving to the end of the waitlist.

If I am on the provider lottery waitlist and a spot becomes available, but I do not want that location, will I get to choose a different location?

If a parent of a student on the waitlist is offered a spot at a private provider location, they have the option to forfeit the spot at the assigned location and move to the end of the waitlist.

Will transportation be offered to the private provider locations?

Transportation cannot be guaranteed at this time.

Will I receive free and reduced lunch, if applicable?

Private provider locations will use the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The requirements of the food program are established through CACFP with the provider locations.

If I am on the waitlist from the February lottery, may I enter the private provider lottery? May I have a seat?

Families on the original waitlist from February have been contacted electronically and offered a spot at a private provider. If accepted, these spots will be assigned by district administration. If a family elects to forfeit a private provider spot, they will remain on the waitlist for spots at Grenloch Terrace or Kindle School.

Will the students be mixed in classrooms with other students enrolled at the private provider location?

No. All students in the private provider location classrooms must be Washington Township residents.

When will I be notified of which private provider I have been assigned?

Shortly after the lottery, the registration department and administration will work to place students at private provider locations. Families will be notified, in writing, as soon as this process is complete.

Is there any cost associated with registration or attendance at the private provider?

No. WTPS preschool is funded through a Preschool Education Aid (PEA) grant from the New Jersey Department of Education's Division of Early Childhood Education (DECE). Before and after care is not included and must be handled through the private provider.

Who are the private providers, and how were they selected?

WTPS is contracted with Little Achievers Learning Center, Cadence Academy Preschool, Tutor Time, and KinderCare. Partnerships were established based on the PEA partnership requirements.

Are the private provider PEA classrooms vetted?

Yes. Teachers in provider classrooms are required to have or obtain a PK-3 certification. Our preschool instructional coach, community and parent involvement specialist, and supervisor will observe these classrooms and provide coaching and resources to staff and families.

Once enrolled, I am guaranteed a spot for the following year. Will this be at the same private provider?

Yes. As always, this is contingent on PEA funds and agreements with the providers.

Will the private providers offer before and after care?

Yes. The provider will contact selected families with that information.

Will the private providers follow the same calendar and daily hours as Grenloch Terrace and Kindle School?

Yes. The private provider classrooms 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.

Will I be able to tour the private provider location before school starts?

Meet the Teacher and Back to School Night will be offered to families at all locations.

Is Kindle still on the table for waitlist families? The email from the district included Kindle, but I don't see it listed here.

WTPS is leasing Kindle, making it an "in-district" location. However, several 4-year-old seats that remain open at Kindle will be included as part of this lottery. The very limited 3-year-old Kindle seats are being filled by the original waitlist. If any of those remain, they will be part of the lottery, as well.

I understand that Learn with Me daycare was part of a similar arrangement under the PEA grant last year, but I'm under the impression that it fell through. What happens if any of this year's partners fall through?

Contracts are signed yearly with private provider preschool centers. All of our providers' locations have signed contracts for the entire 2024-25 school year.

Daycares often have high turnover. Is there a plan to help ensure that pre-k teachers hired for this partnership are retained for the school year?

WTPS is working closely with private provider locations to hire PK-3 certified teachers. Each PEA classroom at provider locations must have a certificated teacher.

Would accepting a space at one of the private providers for PreK 3 now mean forfeiting the chance to attend Grenloch/Kindle for PreK 4?

Yes. Students seated as a three-year-old at any location would remain at that location the following year.

If I am on the waitlist for the private provider lottery and a spot at Grenloch Terrace opens up, will I be considered for that spot?

Families from our original waitlist who turn down spots at the private providers will remain on the original waitlist for Grenloch Terrace. If we exhaust all of those waitlist spots, only then will families on the private provider waitlist be considered.