



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
206 East Holly Avenue, Sewell, NJ 08080

Contact: Matt Pesyna
School Community Outreach Department
(856) 589-6644 x6698
mpesyna@wtps.org

NEWS RELEASE

WTPS Announces Additional Lottery Drawing for 2024-25 Free Integrated Preschool Program

*Spots Available at Local Providers and at Kindle Elementary School;
Pre-Registration Open Now, Runs through May 29th*

[Click here for Frequently Asked Questions about the Private Provider Preschool Locations and Preschool Lottery](#)

For Immediate Release
May 23, 2024

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 May 29, 2024, for an upcoming lottery to fill additional spots created at various local private providers, along with remaining seats at Kindle School. The lottery is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, 2024, and will be hosted on the [District's YouTube channel](#) live at 5 p.m.

With a desire to continue expanding the preschool program, the district has contracted with four local private providers to host classrooms. These locations, using their own teachers and instructors, will provide the same curriculum taught at all in-district locations: Grenloch Terrace Early Childhood Center, Washington Township High School, and Kindle Elementary School in Pitman. The students will be considered enrolled in the district, and our staff supports the providers through staff coaching, parent resources, and district-wide events.

The private provider locations will include: KinderCare (456 Hurffville-Cross Keys Road, Sewell, NJ 08080); Little Achievers (115 Johnson Road, Turnersville, NJ 08012); Tutor Time (123 Egg Harbor Road, Sewell, NJ 08080); and Cadence Academy (315 Fries Mill Road, Sewell, NJ 08080).

Additional admission slots at the providers will be made available to both preschool three-year-old students and four-year-old students. The exact number of available seats will not be available until the day of the lottery, but we anticipate there will be approximately 30 three-year-old slots and 50 four-year-old slots. As part of our expansion agreement, students currently attending these locations will be enrolled in these seats as long as they fulfill all residency and enrollment requirements. These families already have been notified of their participation. Additionally, families with students on the original lottery waitlist have been given an opportunity to accept a seat at a private provider. Once those seats are either claimed or turned down, all remaining spots at each location will be available through our district lottery

system. The program in each location will follow the same curriculum, allowing typically developing children and children with special needs to learn together in the same environment.

Families interested in enrolling in the preschool lottery should submit their child's information immediately via this [PreSchool Lottery](#) link. The District also will compile a waitlist of students in the event of cancellations by the initial lottery winners. The deadline to be considered for this preschool lottery is 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29, 2024.

Any pre-registrations for the lottery submitted after 11:59 p.m. on May 29, 2024, will not be included in the drawing. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE. Any duplicate submissions also will be removed.

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).

"We are excited to contract with these locations to provide even more opportunities 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."

Once pre-registered, families will receive details via email about the selection process for the June 4th lottery drawing, which will be shown on the [District's YouTube channel](#) live at 5 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 selected in this lottery **will be assigned locations** by the district via written notification within 1 week after the lottery takes place. While parents will not be able to choose their preferred location, we will make our best effort to place the students in the location closest to their home. If a parent/guardian does not wish to send their child to the assigned location, they can forfeit their spot and be placed at the end of the waitlist.

Please note, if your child already has secured a spot at either Grenloch Terrace Early Childhood Center, WTHS, Kindle School, or Head Start, they are not eligible for this lottery and **their entries will be removed prior to the drawing.**

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, 2024
- 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 each location, as provided by the location. Information and pricing will be forthcoming. Transportation cannot be guaranteed at this time.

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 via email at mpesyna@wtps.org, or by phone at 856-589-6644, x6698. We ask that you please consult our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) before calling or emailing.

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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