



Preschool Program Frequently Asked Questions 2025-2026 School Year

What is Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA)?

Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) serves to establish or expand access to high-quality, full-day preschool programs. The Voorhees Township Public Schools demonstrated to the NJDOE that it can provide a high-quality preschool program for three and four-year-old students, and as a result, was awarded the grant in 2022. A high-quality preschool program is defined as a full-day program with a certified teacher, instructional associate, and small classes that are inclusive of children with special needs. PEA will help fund a comprehensive preschool program for all eligible students. The program includes a researched-based curriculum and assessment program; materials/supplies that support the curriculum; differentiated instruction to meet students' needs; professional development for staff; parental support; and the extension of learning outside of the classroom through partnerships with community stakeholders.

What should I do if I want my child to attend the Preschool Program during the 2025-2026 school year?

Registration for the 2025-2026 preschool program will open February 1, 2025 through March 15, 2025. The required application will be accessible on the district website's main page.

PRESCHOOL LOTTERY APPLICATIONS for the future school year: Please select **2025-26** for the school year and **Preschool** for the school. Please select the appropriate grade based on your child's date of birth; **3F** (3 years old on or before 10/1/2022) or **4F** (4 years old on or before 10/1/2021). To register for the program, you must be a Voorhees Township resident and provide proof of residency. *If you have questions please contact the district registrar, Tanya Weinstock, at weinstock@voorhees.k12.nj.us*

How old must a child be to enroll in the preschool program?

Students enrolled in the three-year-old program must be 3 years old on or before October 1, 2025. Students enrolled in the four-year-old program must be 4 years old on or before October 1, 2025.

If I am currently on the waitlist for the 2024-2025 school year, but I received the acceptance letter for my child to attend preschool at the Voorhees Early Childhood Development Center (VECDC) when it opens in April 2025, do I need to register again?

If you were on the 2024-2025 preschool waitlist, and **accepted** the seat offered to your child to attend preschool at the Voorhees Early Childhood Development Center (VECDC) when it opens in April, **you will not need to register again.** See the next question for more details.

However, if your child was on the 2024-2025 preschool waitlist and you **did not** accept the seat offered for enrollment at the Voorhees Early Childhood Development Center (VECDC) when it opens in April, **you will need to re-register** for preschool or kindergarten (depending on your child's age). Please use the link above to access the registration portal.

If my student is already enrolled in the preschool program (or if I have accepted the offer to send my child to the VECDC in April 2025), do I need to register again?

No; however, you will receive a letter to confirm your child's intent to remain enrolled. This must be responded to by the deadline provided in that letter. If you do not respond, your child's spot will be forfeited. Your child will be in the same school they attended this past year if you choose for them to continue in the program.

Four-year-old students who will be 5 by October 1st and are currently enrolled will roll over into kindergarten. Re-registration is not required.

How are students selected to participate in the preschool program?

If the number of registrations exceeds the number of available seats in the preschool program, student selection is based on a random lottery system drawn in accordance with the district's policy. Children who are selected to participate in the preschool program are randomly placed in a class and program location.

How many preschool seats will be available in 2025-2026? Will preschool be open to all Voorhees Township 3- and 4-year-olds?

We will be allocating seats for our 11 current classrooms, accommodating a total of 165 students. Moreover, the Voorhees Early Childhood Development Center will house 19 classrooms, totaling 285 additional seats. These allocations also consider our special education inclusion students.

When will the new preschool building be opening?

The Voorhees Early Childhood Development Center will be open to students the week of April 7-11, 2025 (exact date TBA).

Will before/after care be provided at the new preschool building? Will before/after care be provided for students assigned to preschool at Kresson Elementary, Today's Learning Center, or Fervent Beginnings?

The district is not able to offer before/after care at the VECDC from April-June 2025. However, the district is working with Just Kids to offer before and after care to Kresson and VECDC students during the 2025-2026 school year.

Private providers (Today's Learning Center and Fervent Beginnings) plan to provide before/after care as in previous years.

Please note that before/after care is not part of the free preschool program. Additional details will be provided as they become available.

I did not register my preschool-aged child for the 2024-2025 school year. If there is room in the VECDC when it opens in April 2025, may I register and send my child?

While we are not currently accepting new registrations for the 2024-2025 school year, you are welcome to register your child for preschool or Kindergarten (depending on your child's age) for the 2025-2026 school year in February 2025.

My child is old enough to attend Kindergarten, but I do not believe he/she is ready. Can I enter him/her in the lottery?

While we understand this concern, children are classified as 3, 4, or 5 (Kindergarten) by their age on October 1, 2025. As per state and district policy, we may not make exceptions to this. We encourage you to enroll your child in our Kindergarten program.

When will families be notified of their child's acceptance into the 2025-2026 program and assigned location?

Families will begin to receive notification of their acceptance into the program by May 2025. School assignments will be delivered in June 2025.

Once you receive notification of your acceptance into the program, you must have your paperwork submitted by the deadline indicated on your acceptance letter to ensure your child's spot. Your acceptance indicates that you are willing to accept a random placement and intend to participate full-time in the program.

Do I get a say in the school my child attends?

At this time, parents are not able to select the location. Our preschool program will be consistent across all schools and provider sites and will offer the same educational experience to all students through the researched-based and state-approved Creative Curriculum.

I have siblings who are both eligible for preschool. If one is accepted, will the other be accepted?

If both are eligible to enter the program at the same time (examples - twins, or one 3-year-old and one 4-year-old), both siblings will be accepted.

However, if your child is currently in the preschool program or eligible for Kindergarten, and another child becomes eligible for preschool, a spot is not guaranteed.

I have twins/multiples. What if one gets in, does the other automatically become eligible for the program?

We agree that this creates a challenge for both parents and the district. We want to be fair to all involved and agree that twins/multiples should not be separated. For lottery purposes, we assign one number to each family. If that number is selected, all are eligible for the program.

Is there before and after care?

At this time, there is no before and after care offered to our preschool students. However, the district has partnered with Just Kids, with a goal of offering before/after care for the 2025-2026 school year. More information will be available in June 2025.

Are there half-day hours available?

No. All schools will run a full-day program from 8:55 a.m. to 3:25 p.m. Full-time participation is required with your child's acceptance into the preschool program.

Is a flu shot required for my child to attend?

The flu vaccine is a requirement for childcare/preschool attendance for those who are 6 through 59 months of age. At least one dose of flu vaccine is due by December 31 of each year.

How many hours are in a full-day program?

The anticipated time for the full-day preschool program will be 6.5 hours (8:55 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.)

How many children are in a class?

Most classes, with the exception of the self-contained special education classrooms (which will have a maximum of 12), will have a maximum of 15 students with one teacher and one instructional associate.

Will transportation be provided?

Transportation information for 2025-2026 will be forthcoming.

What are the teacher qualifications?

All teachers are New Jersey State Certified, with a minimum of a bachelor's degree. The District is committed to hiring dual-certified teachers for their preschool program. Dual-certified teachers have certification in both early childhood education and special education.

What is an inclusion classroom?

An inclusion classroom consists of students with special programming and general education students.

What are the locations of the preschool classrooms for the 2025-2026 school year?

The district will offer classes in our school district (Kresson Elementary and the Voorhees Early Childhood Development Center) and at our provider sites, which include: Today's Learning Center (1201 White Horse Road) and Fervent Beginnings (904 Cooper Road). The district will continue to establish these valued partnerships with provider sites, as we work toward our dedicated goal to offer a high-quality preschool experience to all students.

What is a provider site?

A provider site is a certified preschool program in the township of Voorhees that chooses to partner with the district to educate preschool students enrolled in the Voorhees Township Public Schools. The district partners with provider sites and uses their classrooms to educate our preschool students. The in-district preschool program will be replicated at the provider sites. As a result, students attending the provider sites will receive the same high-quality instruction including all educational experiences outside of the classroom (field trips). The district works with provider sites to ensure that all NJDOE curriculum, instruction, and assessment mandates are met.

What curriculum will be used in the program?

Creative Curriculum is one of four State approved curricula. Creative Curriculum provides for positive interaction, social-emotional competencies, constructive play, and Teacher-Family interactions. Creative Curriculum is research-based and is offered in English and Spanish. The curriculum consists of a comprehensive collection of daily practice and knowledge building.

What are the components of a typical preschool full-day program?

Students will participate in a full-day schedule that consists of morning meeting, small instructional group time, large group time, shared reading, shared writing, learning centers, structured play, gross motor experiences, rest time, and lunch/snack time. Student learning will address the ten major categories listed below, which are critical for school success:

- social and emotional development
- physical development and health
- language
- cognitive
- literacy
- mathematics
- creative arts
- science and technology
- social studies
- English language acquisition

Children will be immersed in a language-rich environment as they explore their world through play, literacy, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) activities. Each class will be taught by a certified teacher with the assistance of an instructional associate.