



## ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOLS

FIRST CHOICE FOR FAMILIES

### Title 1 Blended Pre-K Program Application Process and Information 2019 - 2020

Thank you for considering the Orange County School's Title 1 Blended Pre-K Program. We are now accepting applications for Pre-K slots in our four Title 1 Blended Pre-K classrooms for the 2019-2020 school year. We want to share information with you at the beginning of the process to enable you to make the best decision for beginning your child's educational journey, and for your family.

#### ELIGIBILITY

- The child's parent/guardian must reside within the Orange County School District. Proof of Residence must be submitted at the assessment screening. If the parent/guardian moves out of the school district, the child will no longer be eligible to attend. Parents/Guardians who are OCS employees but live outside of the district may apply for the program, but they will be required to pay tuition.
- The child must be four years of age on or before August 31st, 2019

#### ENROLLMENT

- Applications are accepted throughout the school year, for the current school year.
- Completed applications are to be mailed to: Hillsborough Elementary, 402 N. Nash Street, Hillsborough, NC 27278 Attention: Ellen Perry-Kaji, Pre-K Program Facilitator.
- The completed application will be processed and screened by the Pre-K Team.
- Parents/Guardians will be contacted to schedule a DIAL 4 assessment.
- Most placements will be determined by June 2019. Applications of children not placed will be maintained on a waiting list for a slot that becomes available.

#### DIAL 4 ASSESSMENT SCREEN

Parents/Guardians will be contacted to schedule an appointment for the child to participate in the DIAL 4 Developmental Assessment, (Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning, Fourth Edition). This tool is used to screen the child on multiple developmental domains. The first assessment dates are Thursday, March 7th and Friday, March 8th. To be eligible for these assessment dates, applications must be received by March 6th. These assessments will be held at Pathways Elementary School, 431 Strouds Creek Road, Hillsborough, NC, in the Media Center. The process takes up to one hour; you will be assigned a slot between 8am and 4:30pm. For applications that come in after the March assessments, individual appointments will be made.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE MAILED TO: ELLEN PERRY KAJI, OCS PRE-K PROGRAM  
FACILITATOR,  
402 N. NASH STREET, HILLSBOROUGH, NC 27278



You will need to bring the following with you to the screening:

- Your child
- Your child's certified birth certificate, not a copy
- Income Verification (W-2 forms or 2 consecutive and current pay stubs, or a written statement from the employer, notarized or on company letterhead)
- Photo ID
- Orange County Residence Verification (a current lease or rental agreement, or a current electric, gas or water bill- all in your name, with your Orange County address.
- **NO OTHER DOCUMENTATION IS NEEDED AT THIS TIME**

#### OCS PRE-K PLACEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The Orange County Schools Title 1 Blended Pre-K Program provides blended, inclusive classrooms for children who may meet the requirements for:

- [Title I](#) Pre-K: Title 1 Pre-K is a federally funded program, designed to improve cognitive, health and emotional-social outcomes for eligible children. Selection is based on academic need. Children enrolled are provided opportunities to prepare them with the prerequisite skills and dispositions of learning that will enable them to benefit from later school experiences. [www.ncpublicschools.org/earlylearning/title1/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/earlylearning/title1/)
- [North Carolina Pre-K](#) (NCPK): NC Pre-K is a state funded initiative, designed to provide high-quality educational experiences to enhance school readiness for eligible four-year-old children. The [NC Pre-K Program Requirements](#) are built on the National Education Goals Panel premise that to be successful academically in school, children need to be prepared in all five of the developmental domains that are critical to children's overall well-being and success in reading and math as they enter school: approaches to play and learning, emotional and social development, health and physical development, language development and communication, and cognitive development.

The child must be [four-years old on or before August 31st](#) of the program year. A child that meets the age requirement is eligible for NC Pre-K if the child is from a family whose gross income is [at or below 75% of the State Median Income \(SMI\)](#). Children of certain [military families](#) are also eligible without regard to income. In addition, up to 20% of age eligible children enrolled may have family incomes in [excess of 75% SMI](#) if they have documented risk factors in specific categories including developmental disability, Limited English Proficiency, educational need, or chronic health condition. <https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Home/DCDEE-Sections/North-Carolina-Pre-Kin-dergarten-NC-Pre-K>

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- Child Care Subsidy/Orange County NC Department of Social Services: The Child Care Subsidy Program provides low-income families with information and financial resources to find and afford quality childcare for their children. Resources enable families to make informed choices regarding childcare providers. Eligible applicants must: (one or more must pertain)
  - Be experiencing crisis
  - Be in school or enrolled in a job-training program
  - Be working
  - Have a child receiving protective services
  - Have a child with developmental delays
  - Meet income requirements
  - Need child care to support child welfare services
  - Subsidies are based on eligibility, the need for childcare, and the OTHER MEMBERS LIVING IN THE HOUSEHOLD (not including the child applicant and the parent/guardian)

<https://www.orangecountync.gov/420/Child-Care-Subsidy>
- Tuition: is based on Orange County current Market Rates for Orange County. There are a limited number of tuition-based slots available in the Pre-K classes. If your family does not meet the income requirements set by NC Pre-K, your child may be eligible for one of these tuition-based slots. Placement of our tuition slots will be determined by a lottery, administered by Orange County School's administration. Tuition cost is to be determined.
- Exceptional Education: Our Pre-K inclusive classrooms serve children, ages 3-5 years, who receive special education services. Placement is determined by need of services indicated on the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) by the OCS IEP Team. For more information, please contact Rhonda Konawicz, EC Pre-K rhonda.konawicz@orange.k12.nc.us.

In order for us to determine the best placement for your child, it is important that you thoroughly read and complete the application, filling out each question. We are not able to process incomplete applications.

#### OCS PRE-K SITE LOCATIONS

Orange County Schools offer Title 1 Blended Pre-K programs at the following school sites:

- Central Elementary School, 154 Hayes Street, Hillsborough, NC 27278
- Efland Cheeks Global Elementary School, 4401 Fuller Road, Efland, NC 27243
- New Hope Elementary School, 1900 New Hope Church Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
- Pathways Elementary School, 431 Strouds Creek Road, Hillsborough, NC 27278P

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We place our Pre-K students in the school they are districted to attend, based on the home address provided, to ensure familiarity, continuity and smooth transition into kindergarten. If your districted school is Cameron Park Elementary or Grady A. Brown Elementary, the Pre-K Team will determine the appropriate Pre-K classroom placement.

Each classroom site serves up to 18 children. Each classroom has a certified, licensed teacher and two instructional assistants with college credits in Early Childhood Education. The maximum teacher to child ratio is 1:8.

All classrooms are licensed by the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education, and are also regulated by the Orange County Department of Environmental Health and Orange County Schools. Our classrooms maintain a five star license, and strive to meet the highest quality early childhood education and best practices for young children and their families.

Our OCS Pre-K classrooms are INCLUSIVE. This means that each classroom supports and addresses the individual needs of each child. Effective models of inclusive education not only benefit students with disabilities, but also create an environment in which every student, including those who do not have disabilities, has the opportunity to reach her/his greatest potential. Here are some ways in which inclusive educational practices build a school's capacity to educate all learners effectively:

- Differentiated instruction increases student engagement.
- Emotional, social and academic supports help each student access the full curriculum.
- Behavioral supports help maintain a safe, connected 'School Family' learning environment for everyone.
- Respect for all types of diversity creates a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Within this inclusive environment, respect, understanding and empathy grows.

**NO TRANSPORTATION IS PROVIDED**

There is no bus transportation service provided for our Pre-K children. Children who qualify for the Exceptional Education program will have their transportation needs determined by the EC Pre-K Assessment Team.

Pre-K parents/guardians must arrange to drop-off and pick-up their child according to the classroom schedule.

**OCS PRE-K HOURS OF OPERATION**

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Pre-K parents/guardians may drop off children beginning at 7:30am, no later than 8:05am. Pre-K parents/guardians must pick up children at 2:50pm. There are no exceptions to this departure time.

There is currently no Orange County School afterschool program for Pre-K children. Some local child care programs offer van service that pick up Pre-K children from the school at departure. This is a contractual agreement between the parent/guardian and the child care program, and does not involve Orange County Schools.

#### OCS PRE-K SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Orange County Schools Pre-K calendar is very similar to the traditional school calendar, with slight variations. These calendars can be found on the [www.orangecountyfirst.com](http://www.orangecountyfirst.com) website.

#### OCS PRE-K CURRICULUM

- The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool is a comprehensive, research-based curriculum that features exploration and discovery as a way of learning, enabling children to develop confidence, creativity, and lifelong critical thinking skills. It is designed to help educators at all levels of experience plan and implement a developmentally appropriate, content-rich program for children with diverse backgrounds and skill levels. Creative Curriculum is aligned with the NC Teaching Standards.  
<https://teachingstrategies.com/solutions/teach/preschool/>
- Teaching Strategies GOLD® is an observation-based assessment system that helps teachers and administrators focus on what matters most for children's success. Grounded in 38 research-based objectives for development and learning, GOLD® supports effective teaching and assessment of each child's progress and learning.  
<https://teachingstrategies.com/solutions/assess/gold/>
- Letterland® for Pre-K introduces the alphabet letter shapes and sounds, expand vocabulary and explore phonemic awareness. With songs and actions for all the alphabet, this is a multi-sensory approach to learning for Pre-K students. The program offers understanding and familiarity for Pre-K children as they transition to kindergarten and primary grade levels within Orange County Schools. <https://us.letterland.com/at-school#Pre-K>
- Conscious Discipline® is a transformational self-awareness, self-regulation and trauma-sensitive program built on the premise of developing discipline within children rather than applying discipline to them. [www.consciousdiscipline.com](http://www.consciousdiscipline.com)

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## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Building strong relationships between teachers and children comes with building strong relationships and communication between teachers and families. Our goal is to build a partnership with families in working toward your child's successful educational journey. We do this with the expectation of ALL families actively participating in: DIAL 4 assessments, home visits, daily communication between family and teachers, parent and family nights, parent conferences, parent education opportunities and parent surveys.

## ASSISTANCE IN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION

We are able to offer assistance in filling out the application form on the following dates, between 9-11am; you must call to schedule an appointment: For English: Ellen Perry Kaji, 919-732-9136, ext. 18003. For Spanish: Sandra Blefko, 919-245-4001, ext. 15508.

Thursday, March 21st

Wednesday, March 27th

Applications and Program Information documents are available at the following sites:

- The Orange County Schools website, in English and Spanish  
<http://www.orangecountyfirst.com/content/pre-k-kindergarten-enrollment>
- All OCS Elementary Schools (Front Office)
- Office of Elementary Instruction/Title 1, Administrative Annex, M-F, 8:30am to 4:30pm, 1914 New Hope Church Road, Chapel Hill
- OCS Administration Building, M-F, 8:30am to 4:30pm, 200 E. King Street, Hillsborough

**For more information, contact:** Ellen Perry-Kaji, OCS Pre-K Program Facilitator, 919- 732-9136, ext. 18003. For information in Spanish, please contact: Sandra Blefko, 919- 644-3200, ext. 15508.

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