



**Title 1 Blended Pre-K Program Application Process and Information
2020 – 2021**

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 2020-2021 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.

OCS Title 1 Pre-K applications are available for download on the District’s website:

<http://www.orangecountyfirst.com/content/pre-k-kindergarten-enrollment>. They will also be available at each OCS Elementary School front office, the OCS Welcome Center (920 Corporate Drive, Hillsborough), the OCS Central Office (200 E. King Street, Hillsborough), the OC Health Department and the OC Department of Social Services. You must complete the application, include all requested documents, and mail or email them to: OCS Pre-K Program Facilitator, 402 N. Nash Street, Hillsborough, NC 27278, ellen.perry-kaji@orange.k12.nc.us, or hand deliver them to the OCS Pre-K Building, located at 500 N. Nash Street, Hillsborough, next to Hillsborough Elementary School. If no one is available to receive your application packet, you may deposit the envelope in a secure drop box, mounted next to the entrance door.

If applicable, applications **MUST** include the following to be complete:

- Documentation of the child’s chronic health condition
- Documentation of the parent’s active military service
- Documentation of the developmental or educational needs and/or IEP (Individualized Education Plan)
- No other documentation is required at this time

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, 2020.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications are accepted throughout the school year, for the current school year.
- Completed applications including all requested documents, are to be mailed to: Hillsborough Elementary, 402 N. Nash Street, Hillsborough, NC 27278 Attention: OCS 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 2020. 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 assessments dates are Thursday, March 5th and Friday, March 6th. To be eligible for these assessment dates, complete applications must be received by March 5th. The DIAL 4 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.

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 of the parent/guardian
- 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 School District address.
- **We are not able to offer the assessment without these documents.**

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/
- 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.

All applications and requested documents can be mailed or hand-delivered to :
OCS PRE-K PROGRAM FACILITATOR, 402 N. NASH STREET, HILLSBOROUGH, NC 27278, or emailed to
ellen.perry-kaji@orange.k12.nc.us



- 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-Kindergarten-NC-Pre-K>

- 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 the 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 \$1000 per month, May 2020 through May 2021, as determined by the OCS Board of Education in April 2019.

- 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, contact the OCS Exceptional Children Pre-K Facilitator at 919-245-4006, ext. 18002.

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.

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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

We place our students in the district assigned school, 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, as we do not currently have Title 1 Pre-K classrooms at these schools.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

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.

TRANSPORTATION IS NOT 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.

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OCS PRE-K HOURS OF OPERATION

Please check with your child's school for allowed drop off and pick up times. Pre-K parents/guardians must pick up children by 3:00pm. There are no exceptions to this departure time.

There is currently no Orange County School afterschool program available for our 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 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>

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- Bridges® for Pre-K: Bridges Pre-K features intentional math instruction built around research-based developmental progressions. The program meets state and national early learning standards while helping children develop the skills, concepts, vocabulary, and attitudes they'll need to succeed with math in kindergarten and beyond. <https://www.mathlearningcenter.org/new/blog/introducing-bridges-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

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, visiting the classroom, 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. 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.

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)**
- **OCS Welcome Center, 920 Corporate Drive, Hillsborough, NC**
- **OCS Administration Building, M-F, 8:30am to 4:30pm, 200 E. King Street, Hillsborough**

For more information, contact: the OCS Pre-K Program Facilitator: 919-732-9136, ext. 18003
For information in Spanish, please contact the ESL/Family Outreach Coordinator:, 919- 644-3200, ext. 15508.

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