



Paatasala Registration Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is Paatasala associated with any other organization?

No. Paatasala is an independent, community-run Telugu school founded in Charlotte 17 years ago. It is not affiliated with any other organization.

2. Are the classes in person or virtual?

We offer both in-person and virtual classes.

- In-person classes are available for students in the Charlotte area.
- Virtual classes are available for students residing outside the Charlotte area.

Please note that **virtual class enrollment is limited**, and seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

3. What is the class schedule?

Classes are held once a week on Sundays for 1 hour, starting in September and continuing through the first week of May.

4. Is there a registration fee or tuition?

No. Paatasala does not charge a registration fee or tuition. Instead, there is a \$90 parent contribution per student to help cover the current year's expenses, including student gifts, personalized trophies, and the Varshikotsavam celebration, where students showcase what they have learned throughout the year.

5. What are the requirements to join Paatasala?

A student must be 6 years old by August or be in 1st grade to register. The student should also be able to understand Telugu.

6. Does a parent need to know how to read and write Telugu before registering a child?

Yes. At least one parent should be able to read, write, and speak Telugu.

7. What do the Basic, Medium, and Proficient levels mean?

Reading

- Basic: Can recognize and read Telugu letters (అక్షరాలు) only.
- Medium: Can read words and simple sentences, including those with గుణింతాలు (guninthalu).
- Proficient: Can read short paragraphs independently with good understanding.

Writing

- Basic: Can write Telugu letters (అక్షరాలు).
- Medium: Can write words and simple sentences using గుణింతాలు (guninthalu).
- Proficient: Can write short paragraphs independently with correct sentence formation.

Speaking

- Basic: Can speak simple words and short phrases.
- Medium: Can form and speak simple sentences.
- Proficient: Can speak Telugu fluently in everyday conversations.

8. My child attended Paatasala in the past. Should I complete a new registration?

Yes. Please complete a new registration as a parent. If you have any questions, please send an email to registrations@paatasalausa.org

9. Can I register myself as a student to learn Telugu?

Yes. There is no age limit to learn Telugu and stay connected to our language and culture.

If your child is already enrolled in Paatasala, you do not need to register separately as a student. You may use your child's learning materials to support your own learning.

10. My child can already read, write, and speak Telugu. Which class should they join?

If your child can already read, write, and speak Telugu, they will be placed in the appropriate level after an assessment test. The assessment test will be held on August 22 at 3 PM ET.

11. What are the level placement criteria?

2nd Class

Minimum Age: 7 years

Able to construct simple sentences using words such as పాలు, చెవి, and ఆకులు.

Able to correctly write simple dictation words such as దయ, ఊహ, కళ, and గణగణ.

3rd Class

Minimum Age: 8 years

Able to construct simple sentences using words such as నవ్వు, గది, and పక్షి.

Able to correctly read and write words with గుణింతాలు, such as మనిషి, పాఠశాల, and మొసలి.

4th Class

Minimum Age: 8 years

Able to construct complex sentences using words such as కానీ, అందువలన, and ఎందుకంటే.

Able to read and write complete Telugu sentences comfortably.

12. Do I need to volunteer in Paatasala?

Yes. Paatasala is entirely supported by parent volunteers. Every registered parent is expected to complete at least 10 volunteer hours during the calendar year.

A child's promotion to the next level is based on both student progress and the completion of the required parent volunteer hours.

13. When does new registration close?

New registration closes on August 21.

14. As a parent, how much time should I spend with my child?

Parents play an important role in helping children learn Telugu. Speak Telugu with your child whenever possible and encourage them to respond in Telugu.

Spend about 5–10 minutes a day, 4 days a week on written homework. Oral practice depends on the child's comfort level.

Most learning can happen naturally during daily activities like conversations or car rides.

15. I do not have time to help my child with homework. Can I still register?

Parents play an important role in helping children learn Telugu. If you are unable to support your child with homework, it may become difficult for them to stay on track and build confidence in learning. This can also affect their learning in other subjects over time.

16. How much pressure should I put on my child for homework?

Paatasala strongly recommends not putting pressure on children. The syllabus is designed to make learning fun and engaging.

The key is consistent practice about 5 days a week. Trying to complete all homework in one day can create stress and make learning more difficult.

17. What are the next steps after registration?

After registration, you need to enroll your child. Please follow the steps below:

- Parents are required to attend the Mandatory New Parent Workshop. During the meeting, we will review the program, academic year expectations, parent responsibilities, and other important information.
 - **Location:** Gandhi Bhavan, Hindu Center of Charlotte
7400 City View Dr, Charlotte, NC
 - **Time:** 3:00–5:00 PM (ET)
 - **Date:** August 22, 2026
- On August 23, available class locations will be enabled, and you will be notified by email. Since the student–teacher ratio is 8:1, please complete your selection as soon as possible, as it is on a first-come, first-served basis.

- After selecting the location, you can proceed to pay the parent contribution amount.
- Once the payment is completed, your child's enrollment will be finalized.

18. Do out-of-town parents need to attend the virtual parent meeting?

Yes. Attendance at the virtual parent meeting is required for all out of town parents.

The virtual parent meeting will be held on **August 22** from **10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**.

19. When will I receive my child's class location and teacher information?

The class location and teacher information will be shared with parents on August 26.

20. When will I receive my child's class material?

Class materials will be shared in PDF format on August 26. Please print the materials and organize them in a binder before the first class on September 13.

21. What are the requirements to teach at Paatasala?

To become a teacher at Paatasala, you should meet the following requirements:

- Be able to read, write, and speak Telugu fluently.
- Have accurate pronunciation, especially for similar-sounding letters such as శ, స, ష and న, ణ.
- Be willing to make a minimum commitment of one school year.
- Be able to dedicate approximately one hour per week for classes, with additional time during assessments and school events.
- Attend teacher training sessions and participate in virtual meetings as needed.

22. Are the teachers paid to teach Telugu?

No. All teachers are volunteers. They generously give their time to support Telugu language learning and serve the community.

23. Are the teachers certified in Telugu?

No. Our teachers are not formally certified Telugu teachers. However, some have been teaching for up to 14 years. All teachers receive training in teaching Telugu.

They are dedicated parent volunteers who give their time to help children learn the language and stay connected to their culture.