

Dear Families,

Welcome Back and Happy New Year! Our Early Learning Department is excited to announce several new preschool locations throughout Jeffco Public Schools that will support Colorado's Universal Preschool Program (UPK). Here at Leawood Elementary we will have 1 full day classroom and 1 half day classroom supporting preschool students beginning August 2023.

Authentic, experience-based, and engaging learning begins in preschool. Jeffco preschools build a foundation of academic, social-emotional, and physical learning so children are ready for school and a thriving future in Kindergarten and beyond. Our programs are play-based and responsive to student needs so that children can be curious, joyful, and gain self-confidence while learning through inquiry and developing academic and social-emotional skills.

The Jeffco Public Schools Preschool Program will offer a wide variety of quality options for three and four-year-olds at [multiple sites across the county](#) in the 23-24 school year. In all classrooms, our students experience academic and social-emotional core instruction and have access to services for English language learners, and identified special education needs. Other program options include International Baccalaureate, Expeditionary Learning, and Dual Language which encompasses native language instruction.

Jeffco Public Schools Preschool Program offers half-day and full-day options for three and four-year-old children in many geographical areas of the district. Children turning three on or before October 1st are eligible to begin preschool. All programs are licensed by the Colorado Department of Human Services and meet the Colorado Department of Education Quality Standards for Early Childhood Care and Education Services.

Colorado's Universal Preschool Program

Beginning the 2023-24 school year, the State of Colorado will support at least 15 hours of preschool, or pre-k, for Colorado children who turn 4 between October 2, 2022, and October 1, 2023, in the year before they enter kindergarten.

Families of children in the year before they are eligible for kindergarten and with certain qualifying factors which are:

- [Household Income](#)
- IEP
- Housing status
- Dual language learner
- Foster/Kinship care

are eligible for an additional 15 hours stacked on top of the half-day programming, bringing those children to full-day programming. Children who turn 3 between October 2, 2022, and October 1, 2023, are also eligible for UPK

if they have at least one qualifying factor.

UPK is available during the school year (nine months). The funding for each child's preschool tuition goes directly to the participating preschool provider. UPK providers must be licensed by the State of Colorado.

Participating in UPK is voluntary, both for families and preschool providers.

Applying for Colorado's Preschool Program (UPK)

Families of children in the year before they are eligible for kindergarten, and qualifying 3-year-olds, are able to apply for UPK Colorado for the 2023-24 school year beginning on January 17, 2023.

Families can apply for two types of programs. Your options include half-day and full-day. Half-day (15 hours) of that program will go toward your total cost of care.

For example, if you are eligible for half-day, but need full-day care, the half-day portion is covered by UPK Colorado and the additional hours could be paid through [Child Care Assistance Program \(CCAP\)](#) or parent pay.

You can submit an application anytime once the application opens on Jan. 17.

Applications at the beginning of the year will be processed in rounds. This allows the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) to provide an equal opportunity for applicants to access providers of their choice. Once the rounds are completed, applications will be processed as they arrive.

[View Jeffco Schools 2023-24 preschool sites](#) that will provide Colorado's Universal Preschool Program.

Application Process:

4 Year Olds (Students that turn 4 on or before October 1, 2023): Families will apply for preschool through the [Universal Preschool Program \(UPK\)](#) family portal. **Please Note:** When applying through the UPK family portal, if your desired school or program is not listed, please return to [EnrollJeffco](#) to apply.

3 Year Olds (Students that turn 3 on or before October 1, 2023): For all preschool programs at Jeffco neighborhood schools, charter schools, and option schools, families will apply for preschool through [EnrollJeffco](#).

- **Starting January 17th**
 - 4 year olds only →Family Portal:** <https://upk.colorado.gov> (this will not be open until January 17, 2023)
 - create an account
 - add information as needed
 - select and rank their choice of providers
 - **Families must provide proof of income to submit their application.**
 - review and submit the application.
 - Families will be sent a match notification mid-March or April for this first round of applications (January 17-February 14)

Proof of age and proof of residency will be collected as part of the registration process with the provider you receive an offer from.

Read more in the [Family FAQ](#) from the Colorado Department of Early Childhood.

If you have further questions about Jeffco's Preschool Program and how to apply for Universal Preschool please contact Jeffco's Early Learning Department.

CONTACT

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