

CUFSD Universal Pre-K Program FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Universal Prekindergarten (UPK)?

UPK is a free preschool experience made possible through grants from the New York State Education Department (NYSED). As long as the funding remains available and as long as the district has the human resources to coordinate the program, the district can offer the program.

Is the UPK program free? Yes.

Is the program run by the Chester Union Free School District?

Yes. The program is run by the Chester Union Free School District at Chester Elementary School.

How long is the program?

The program is an all-day program that follows the Chester Union Free School District's 180 day calendar. The program will take place Monday through Friday, 8:30am-3:15pm, following the Chester Elementary School schedule.

Will transportation be provided?

Yes, however, parents may drop off and pick up their students if they choose to do so.

Can all district 4-year-olds attend?

No. We currently have 20 spots open for the program. Given there may be more applicants than the number of available spots a lottery will be used to determine who will participate. All students who are not selected during the lottery will be placed on a waiting list. If any vacancies occur during the year, they will be filled until the waiting list has been exhausted. Only signed and completed applications received by the application deadline will be entered into the lottery.

How will I know if my child has been chosen?

Lottery selection will take place at Chester Elementary School. This is open to all applicants to view in-person or remotely. The lottery will determine which students will start the program in September. Parents will be contacted directly by phone using the number provided on the application and will also receive an email. If you were not selected, you will receive an email indicating your child has been placed on the waiting list.

When can I apply for the UPK program?

Interested parents are asked to submit their applications for UPK to the CES registrar by a set deadline determined by the district. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. Dates will vary in March each school year and can be found on the district calendar.

What are the immunization requirements?

Public Health Law 2164 requires children to provide proof of immunization within 14 days of the first day of school. The required immunizations for PreK are: 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 3 Hep B, 1 Varicella, 1 MMR, HIB and Pneumococcal.

Who do I reach out to for more information?

Please reach out to the CES registrar, Lindsay Iannuzzi, for more information. Mrs. Iannuzzi can be reached at lindsay.iannuzzi@chesterufsd.org or ext. 2202