



Durham PreK

When you complete the Universal Pre-K (UPK) Application, you are applying for a pre-K seat in the following types of pre-K classrooms:

- **Durham Public Schools (DPS)**
- **Durham Head Start (DHS)**
- **Community-based licensed programs**

What do all of these classrooms have in common?

- Birth-Kindergarten licensed teachers
- Research-based curriculum that values play to keep children engaged and excited about learning
- High-quality learning environments
- 5-star rating from [NC Division of Child Development and Early Education](#)
- Low student-teacher ratios

Why Does Durham Have a Universal Pre-K Application?

- Children are considered for all public pre-K seats in Durham County (except for Watts and Morehead Magnet Schools, which use the DPS magnet application)
- Pre-K partners identify the most appropriate classroom for your child

Overall Eligibility Requirements

- Children must be Durham County residents
- Children must turn 4 years old by August 31 of the applying school year

Application opens early February!

What Is Considered During Child Placement?





The Pre-K Partners ([DPS](#), [DPfC](#), [DHS](#) and [CCSA](#)) consider the following information for child placement:

- Designated address (home or work, identified by applying parent or guardian). DPS can **only consider a family's home address for placement**.
- Sibling school location
- Family' school preferences. Families are able to select their top 3 choices within their application based on their program eligibility. Preferences **cannot** be guaranteed. Families can indicate a preference to be placed with DPS, but **cannot** select specific DPS sites.



Each applicant child will be considered for all classrooms types they are eligible for based on the requirements listed below.

Additional Program Specific Requirements

PreK Partner Program	Income Eligibility	Program Specific Eligibility	Site Locations		
			Head Start	Public Schools	Private Sites
	<p>Families at all income levels are eligible.</p> <p>Families with incomes at 400% Federal Poverty Level or above will pay a monthly parent fee of 2% of monthly income.*</p>	<p>All families are eligible. Priority is given to families that meet priority criteria.**</p>	✓	✓	✓
	<p>Families must make less than 75% of the state median income.</p>	<p>Some families with incomes over the eligibility requirement may qualify if they meet other priority criteria.**</p>	✓	✓	✓
	<p>Families must make less than 130% of the Federal Poverty Level.*</p>	<p>Some families with incomes over the eligibility requirement may qualify if they meet other priority criteria.**</p>	✓	✗	✗
	<p>Families at all income levels are eligible.</p>	<p>All families are eligible for The Whitted School.</p> <p>For Title I seats, must apply by mid-May deadline (date varies by year), and show academic need through a completed developmental screening.</p>	✗	✓	✗

* Federal Poverty Level - "An economic measure used to decide whether the income level of an individual or family qualifies them for certain federal benefits and programs." Find more information [here](#).

** Priority Criteria may include children with disabilities, academic need, chronic health conditions, or limited English proficiency, children in foster care, families receiving TANF or SSI, children experiencing homelessness, military families.