

2471 - EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL

The Rumson Board of Education believes that preschool education experiences contribute to later academic success for all children. Therefore, the board shall operate a preschool program designed for district children under the age required for regular admission. The Rumson Preschool Program shall address the needs of children who have been identified as requiring special education, as well as those who have not been so identified.

The preschool curriculum shall consist of developmentally appropriate experiences that provide each child with individual opportunities to develop positive self-esteem, social/emotional growth, language skills, motor development and conceptual skill development.

All preschool programs sponsored by the board shall be consistent with the overall philosophy of the school district and aligned with the Core Curriculum Content Standards. They shall be coordinated with other relevant district programs such as special education and Title I and articulated with the K-8 curriculum.

Proof of immunizations against communicable diseases and examinations shall be in accord with requirements for kindergarten and first grade admission (see Policy file code 5111 Admission).

The Board of Education shall ensure that the preschool program:

- A. Maintains classroom enrollments of no more than 15 children with one certified teacher and one appropriately qualified assistant;
- B. Is developmentally appropriate to the age and skill level of the young child;
- C. Is designed to meet the New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards of Quality, the New Jersey Preschool Program Implementation Guidelines and the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards;
- D. Includes transition activities, programs, and services between preschool programs and kindergarten programs;
- E. Coordinates with all other relevant school district programs, for example special education and bilingual education; and
- F. Includes an annual program evaluation.

The preschool programs and curricula shall be based on student needs, strengths and interests that focus on all aspects of development: cognitive, social, emotional, and physical. Curriculum and assessment strategies and/or resources shall be developmentally appropriate and include performance-based assessment measures. The board shall provide professional development and training specific to preschool education for all early childhood education administrators, teachers, and teacher assistants.



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The preschool program may be offered within a mixed delivery system that includes in-district, private provider and local Head Start agency settings provided that the private provider and/or local Head Start agency program(s) with which the district Board of Education contracts comply with the school district's program requirements, including the employment of appropriately licensed and qualified teaching staff.

The preschool program shall include parent education activities in the preschool program with specific strategies identified that assist parents in maintaining actively involved in their child's education throughout their school years.

Community health and social services agencies shall be included in the planning, operations, and if appropriate, the fiscal support of the preschool program.

The board shall designate an administrator to oversee the preschool program. He/she shall ensure adherence to all applicable laws and regulations in pursuing funding at the federal and state levels, as well as from private sources.

Tuition

The preschool program shall include a charge for tuition to be determined annually by the board and in accordance with board Policy and Regulation 5111 Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Pupils. The Board of Education will annually determine if the preschool program is open to resident or non-resident students and the associated tuition for non-resident preschool students. Accommodations shall be made for students whose families have a financial hardship that would prevent participation in the preschool program due to the cost of tuition. Financial hardship shall mean families who meet the federal criteria for free and reduced priced milk or lunch. The board shall consider other criteria for financial hardship on a case-by-case basis only after the applicant completes/provides all documentation requested. All the applications for tuition reduction and tuition waiver shall be evaluated and approved by the board and the decision of the board shall be final.

Admission

Parents/guardians shall be required to submit the preschool application, by a date to be determined annually by the board, to be considered for admission into the preschool program. In the event that there are more applications than space available in the program, students shall be randomly selected by lottery drawing. All applicants shall be notified of their acceptance or rejection, in a timely manner following the lottery drawing. All applicants that receive notice of acceptance into the preschool program shall be required to officially enroll with **a non-refundable deposit and** payment of tuition, as outlined by the procedures set up by the school administration, upon notification of acceptance. Failure to enroll will result in a forfeiture of that child's space in the preschool program.



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A waiting list may be created from the applicants that were not offered a spot in the program. The waiting list shall be comprised of applicants who participated in the lottery and listed in the order in which the name was drawn. If a space opens up in the preschool program the first available student on the waiting list shall be enrolled.

Registration

Preschool (Pre-Kindergarten)

- A. Registration for the preschool program will be held in February for the following school year for resident students only.
- B. The following shall be required for registration:
 1. Proof of Age – the child must be 3 or 4 years old by October 1st; effective with enrollment in the 2020-2021 school year;
 2. The child is toilet trained;
 3. Proof of residency; and
 4. Immunization record
- C. The program, which includes two half-day sessions per day, will serve a total of thirty (30) students (ages 3 or 4). The enrollment for each class will be no more than fifteen (15) students per class. Each class shall be staffed by a certified teacher and an instructional aide. Each session of the preschool program shall run 2.5 hours, 5 days a week, during the school year and on days when school is in session.
- D. Spaces in the preschool program shall be reserved for special needs students. Resident students with special needs shall be considered first for these spaces. In the event the Board of Education opens spaces for special needs students from other local education agencies, (LEA), these students shall be considered as well for these spaces. Preschool students with special needs shall be mainstreamed as appropriate;
- E. If more regular education students than available spaces apply for the preschool program, the applicants will be randomly chosen by lottery. The lottery shall be held in April. The students not chosen by the lottery shall be placed on a waiting list in the order in which their names were drawn.

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Revised: 9 January 2019

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