



Pre-K Parent Handbook

2025-2026

The Denton Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities.

DISD Prekindergarten

Dear Parents,

At Denton ISD, we empower lifelong learners! Education is a team effort, and we know that students, parents, teachers, and staff members, all working together, will make this a wonderful year for your young learner. We thank you for entrusting us with educating your child.

All DISD-offered early childhood programs focus on the individual academic, behavioral, social, and emotional needs of each child. We understand the importance of parent involvement and encourage you to become partners with us in the education of your child.

All Pre-K are considered Denton ISD students. Please access the DISD Student & Parent Handbook for a more comprehensive resource. You can access the DISD Student & Parent Handbook at: www.dentonisd.org/documents.

Should you have any questions regarding the DISD Pre-K program, please contact your child's teacher or the principal of the campus in which your child attends. Thank you for supporting Denton ISD and the DISD prekindergarten program. We sincerely look forward to working with you and your child this year!

Sincerely,

***Cecilia Holt
Early Childhood Director
Denton Independent School District
(940) 369-0448***

Updated 8/11/2025

Mission:

Our mission is to serve, nurture, and grow our community's youngest learners and their families.

Vision:

In partnership with families, our focus will be to develop the physical, cognitive, social/emotional, language/communication, and academic skills of each child so that they reach their fullest potential.

Values:Serve

- We will build trust and relationships with our children, families, and community.
- We will provide comprehensive services and resources for families and children; ages birth through age 5.
- We will offer quality family engagement opportunities.

Nurture

- We will build connections and foster positive relationships.
- We will empower children with life skills.
- We will foster a sense of purpose and accomplishment.

Grow

- We will implement developmentally appropriate practices to promote learning in a safe, supportive environment.
- We will provide high-quality individualized instruction.
- We will foster a love of learning through purposeful play.

Pre-kindergarten (State-Funded Prekindergarten Program)

The Denton ISD currently offers pre-kindergarten programming at select campuses within Denton ISD for students who meet the eligibility requirements. The pre-kindergarten program follows the Denton ISD school calendar. The state-funded program is for children turning four years old on or before September 1st. If the program has available spots after all eligible four-year-olds are registered, children who turn three years old on or before September 1st may be accepted into the program at accepting campuses.

Pre-K Academy (Tuition-Based Prekindergarten Program)

The tuition-based program is for children who are four years of age on or before September 1st and who do not qualify for the state-funded prekindergarten program. The pre-kindergarten program follows the Denton ISD school calendar. Enrollment is done on a first-come, first-served basis.

These are the expectations for students in the Academy program.

- 1) Students must be fully potty-trained.
- 2) The \$155.00 deposit is non-refundable
- 3) Academy is an educational program, and students must remain at the school for the whole day. Students with 10 absences/tardies may be dropped from the program at the discretion of the campus administrator.
- 4) There will be no Pre-K Academy classes available on school holidays and teacher in-service days.
- 5) Any concerns with student behavior will be discussed with the appropriate school staff. Students may be removed temporarily or permanently from the program.
- 6) I will notify DISD two weeks in advance if I plan to withdraw my child from the program. I understand that refunds will be on the remaining months only. Please email notice to PreK@dentonisd.org
- 7) Tuition is due on the payment scheduled dates. If my child is withdrawn from the program for any reason after attending one class in a month, no refunds will be given for that month.
- 8) I understand that my child will be removed from the program after one late or missed payment. I am aware that each late payment will incur a \$30 fee, as well as any other expenses associated with collection for delinquent payments.
- 9) I understand that I need to apply for a transfer if I wish to keep my child on this campus (if the campus selected is not the child's zoned campus) for Kindergarten, and I will be subject to all the provisions of DISD transfer policy.

State-Funded Prekindergarten Eligibility

To be eligible, the student must meet at least one of the following eligibility requirements:

- is unable to speak and comprehend the English language; or
 - is educationally disadvantaged (which means a student eligible to participate in the national free or reduced-price lunch program... guidelines can be found [here](#)); or
 - is homeless, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 1143a, regardless of the residence of the child, of either parent of the child, or the child's guardian or other person having lawful control of the child; or
 - is the child of an active-duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority; or
 - is the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty; or
 - is or ever has been in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care) following an adversary hearing held as provided by Section 262.201, Family Code; or
 - is the child of a person eligible for the Star of Texas Award as a peace officer under Section 3106.002, Government Code; a firefighter under Section 3106.003, Government Code; or an emergency medical first responder under Section 3106.004, Government Code.
- TEC §29.153(b), SAAH, Section 7.2, TEC 5.001 (4).

PreK Academy (Tuition-Based Pre-K)

Selection Criteria

- Children will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis upon receipt of the non-refundable **\$155.00** deposit. The purpose of this deposit is to hold the spot for the student for the upcoming year, and it must be paid yearly. An online application for PreK Academy and a completed Tuition Parent Agreement form must be on file to be selected.
- The deposit and tuition must be paid according to the DISD payment schedule.
- Children must be completely toilet-trained before starting the program.
- Transportation may be provided for eligible 4-year-old students.
- All Denton ISD students complete their DISD enrollment online. Please contact your child's campus for more enrollment information.

Deposit and Tuition

- A non-refundable **\$155** deposit is due upon enrollment to secure a spot for your child. Once the deposit, the online registration form, and the completed Tuition Parent Agreement form are received, your child's spot will be confirmed at the specific campus.
- Tuition may be paid annually for **\$6,075.00**. Tuition may be paid monthly for **\$675.00**, or by semester for **\$3,037.50**. The DISD payment schedule is below. Payment will only be accepted online via the ProCare Portal. The DISD Finance Department will send you a link to make payments.
- If paying monthly, tuition is due on the last day of each month for the following month. On the 3rd day of the month, the tuition payment option updates to include a \$30.00 late fee. If the tuition and late fees are not paid by the 5th day of the month, the DISD Finance Department will contact the parent to discuss the withdrawal from the PreK Academy program.

Payment Schedule:

Month	Amount Due	Due Date	*\$30 Late Fee Assessed
August/September	\$675.00	31-Aug	3-Sep
October	\$675.00	30-Sep	3-Oct
November	\$675.00	31-Oct	3-Nov
December	\$675.00	30-Nov	3-Dec
January	\$675.00	31-Dec	3-Jan
February	\$675.00	31-Jan	3-Feb
March	\$675.00	28-Feb	3-Mar
April	\$675.00	31-Mar	3-Apr
May	\$675.00	30-Apr	3-May

Registration Fee \$155.00

*Tuition and late fees not received by the 3rd of the month at 11:59 pm will result in a \$30 late fee. After the 5th of the month, we will attempt to contact you about your student being withdrawn from the program. The parent may re-enroll the student by paying the tuition (**\$675**) plus any overdue fees. To avoid having your child automatically withdrawn from the program, you **MUST** contact us before the tuition due date and make payment arrangements.

We do not provide drop-in services. If your child attends PreK Academy for any number of days (even 1 day) in the month, the full tuition for the month is due. The tuition for the school year is **\$6,075.00**. Tuition payments have been divided equally for nine (9) months at **\$675** per month. PreK Academy will follow the Denton ISD calendar. There will be no refunds or credit given for severe weather days.

Materials and Supplies

Parents are responsible for purchasing students' school supplies and materials. Please reach out to your campus for an updated school supply list or view it on our Denton ISD webpage. Your child needs to bring a backpack to school each day. Please write your child's name on their backpack.

Cancellation of Participation in the Program

A child's participation in the program could be canceled by the district for the following reasons:

- Failure to make payments.
- A pattern of late pickups.
- Failure to pay late fees.
- Continuous behavior that affects the learning of others.

A child's participation in the program may be canceled by the parents with two (2) weeks' written notice to the Early Childhood Director. The tuition for the month of withdrawal will not be prorated.

Prekindergarten (State-Funded & Academy) Program Description

Classrooms are staffed with a certified teacher and a paraprofessional. The program follows the Denton ISD elementary hours of 7:40 am-3:00 pm. The programs will follow the Pre-K Guidelines. Classroom schedules may differ, but all prekindergarten programs include the following elements:

- Individual, small, and large group activities
- A focus on literacy
- Activities that promote gross motor skills and fine motor skills
- Socialization activities
- Learning centers to promote creativity, mathematical skills, conceptual understanding, hand-eye coordination, cooperative work, and language.

Report of Child's Progress

Parents will receive report cards on their child's progress each quarter. Additionally, parent conferences will be scheduled during the fall semester. If needed, additional appointments can be made with your child's teacher. Parents are asked to notify their child's campus of a change in address or contact information.

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Program Guidelines

- Behavior - All PreK students must follow the Denton ISD expectations for student behavior. If persistent negative behaviors interfere with the learning and progress of other students, the parent/guardian will be notified.
- Rest Time - A rest time is provided each day. You may send a blanket in your child's backpack each day. Your child may also bring no more than one small stuffed animal that will help him/her to rest. Children who will not nap will participate in quiet activities.
- Suspected Disability - If at any time the campus suspects a student has a disability, school personnel will follow the Denton ISD guidelines to pursue a referral for evaluation of the suspected disability. The parent/guardian of the child will be notified regarding any academic, behavioral, social, or emotional concerns. If the child qualifies for an Early Childhood Special Education program (ECSE), they must withdraw from the PreK Academy and enroll in the appropriate program.

Attendance

Your child must attend school every day. Once a student enrolls in a public school system, they are subject to compulsory attendance rules (TEC §25.085(b)). Students with ten absences and tardies may be dropped from the program at the discretion of the campus. If your child will be absent, please inform the campus at your earliest convenience to provide written documentation of absence.

Breakfast, Lunch, and Snacks

Breakfast and lunch are available for purchase in the cafeteria each day. Parents are also responsible for providing a snack for their child each day. Please be sensitive to food allergies. We ask that all snacks be peanut-free.

Dress Code

Students should follow the Denton ISD dress code. For students to be able to participate in school activities, they must wear closed-toe shoes each day. Please ensure that your child always has a change of clothes in their backpack. Please write your child's name on all outerwear. Please note that Denton ISD is not responsible for lost clothing items.

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Health and Wellness

All campuses are staffed with a registered nurse. When your child is ill, please contact the school to let us know he or she will not be attending that day. It is important to remember that schools are required to exclude students with certain illnesses from school for periods, as identified in state rules. For example, if your child has a fever over 100 degrees, he or she must stay out of school until fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications. A complete list of conditions for the school can be obtained from the school nurse.

Medication that must be administered to a student during school hours must be provided by the student's parents in the original container. All medication, whether prescription or nonprescription, must be kept in the nurse's office and administered by the nurse.

For students in PreK, the student's teacher or other district personnel will apply sunscreen to a student's exposed skin if the student brings the sunscreen to school and requests assistance with the application of the sunscreen. Nothing prohibits a student at this level from applying their sunscreen if they can do so.

Transportation

Transportation by Denton ISD may be provided for eligible 4-year-old students. It is expected that prekindergarten students arrive by the start of the school day at 7:40 am and are picked up at the end of the school day at 3:00 pm. If you are interested in after-school care, please contact the DISD Extended School Day office. Per Denton ISD policy, children will only be released to persons listed on their pick-up list.

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