



**Shenendehowa**  
*Central School District*

## Universal PreK Q&A

The Federal Government provided funding for Universal Prekindergarten [UPK] this school year. The District immediately began the process of seeking potential preschool providers to house UPK for Shenendehowa. The required application process was followed, enabling the District to help parents in obtaining UPK by September 7, 2022.



### **What is UPK?**

UPK stands for Universal Pre-Kindergarten. It is federally funded and provides for a 6 hour a day structured preschool program for 4 year olds living within the Shenendehowa community. It is free for families.

### **Do I have to pay anything for UPK?**

The UPK program is free for students. Parents have to provide transportation.

### **Who is eligible for UPK?**

Students who turn 4 on or before December 1, 2022.

### **How are students selected for UPK?**

Parents will complete an application and then students will be chosen randomly through a lottery system. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

### **Where will UPK be located?**

Little Genius and New Meadow.

### **If my child currently attends Little Genius or New Meadow, are they eligible for UPK?**

If your child currently attends Little Genius or New Meadow, please apply for the lottery. If

there are enough funds, your child might be eligible for tuition coverage.

**When will I be notified of my child's eligibility?**

Letters will be sent out after Friday, May 20, 2022

**When is the start date for UPK?**

September 7, 2022

**How were the UPK sites determined?**

A "Request for Proposals (RFP)" was advertised and sent to local preschool programs. Preschool programs applied to be considered for UPK sites for 2022-2023. Potential program coordinators were interviewed and chosen based on a set of criteria.

**How many seats are available for the 2022-2023 school year?**

This is still to be determined

**Will I have a choice as to which schools my child will attend?**

The selection will be random. We will certainly try to be accomodating in cases where a sibling is currently attending.

**What if my child does not get a seat? Is there a wait list?**

The District will maintain a waitlist for students. As seats open up, parents will be notified via mail.

**My child is attending Head Start (income qualified, through the county). Can he/she go to UPK instead?**

Yes.

**Will transportation to and from school be provided?**

Transportation is not provided. Parents must transport their child to and from the UPK program.

**Will a snack and lunch be provided?**

The preschool will provide children with a breakfast snack, full lunch, and afternoon snack, based upon a menu developed by the preschool.

**Are the teachers in the UPK program certified to teach?**

All teachers have been vetted by the preschool program. Preschool teachers have the required credentials to instruct preschool students.

**What does the general structure of the day look like in UPK?**

A typical day will be for up to 6 hours, generally between 8:00 and 3:00. Specific times will be provided. The day generally includes circle time, small and whole group instruction, snacks/lunch, rest time if needed, and play.

**What is the earliest my child can be dropped off at the UPK program?**

If your child is selected for a program, you would then need to call the center (New Meadow or Little Genius) to ask this question.

**Does the UPK program offer before or after care? What is the cost?**

If your child is selected for a program, you would then need to call the center (New Meadow or Little Genius) to ask this question. Some centers do offer after care & the cost must be covered by parents.

**What is the class size in UPK?**

Each classroom can have up to 20 students, 1 teacher and 1 assistant.

**Does my child have to attend the program 5 days a week?**

Yes. This is a full-day, five days per week program.

**If my child receives preschool special education services are they eligible for UPK?**

Children who are approved by the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) for related services (speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy) and/or SEIT services (special education itinerant services) are eligible for services under the UPK funding guidelines. Children who are receiving special education services in the form of a self-contained or integrated class would not be able to attend a UPK program.

**My child was assigned to one school in the lottery, but we would like the other school instead. Can we switch?**

No, but you could go back on the waitlist for a seat in a different program.

**My family will be traveling for an extended period of time. Can our seat be held until we return?**

No, but you could go back on the waitlist for a seat to open again.