

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Policy Implementation Procedures
25-2.21 Options and Transfers - Preschool

The Arlington Public Schools (APS) carries out a sustained, vigorous, inclusive, and culturally appropriate program to communicate clearly the attributes of all its preschool programs to assist families in making informed decisions. Preschool application periods and deadlines are widely published each year. Preschool application forms are available online, at all APS elementary schools and programs and at the central registration office.

Preschool Options

Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)

The Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) **is a high quality program for four-year-old children. VPI is supported by a grant** from the Commonwealth of Virginia. To qualify for the program, the child must be an Arlington County resident, be four years old on or before September 30 and meet income requirements set by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Admission preference is based on income and other risk factors.

Primary Montessori

APS provides Montessori classes for three, four, and five-year-old students, **instruction is delivered through an interdisciplinary, multi-age approach to learning and is based on the work of Dr. Maria Montessori.**

Two-thirds of the positions in each Montessori class are reserved for children whose parents' or guardians' income is at or less than 80% of the median income Arlington County. Tuition shall be charged on a sliding scale for all enrolled students during the 3-year-old year. During the four-year-old year, parents or guardians' of four-year-old children whose income is at or less than 80% of the median income in Arlington County pay no fee. All students in the Montessori classroom who are 5 years old on or before September 30 do not pay a fee as it is the kindergarten year.

Preference for openings that may occur for five-year-olds is given to students with previous Montessori experience.

Preschool Application Process

Preschool applications will be accepted beginning February 1 and continuing through April 15 prior to the beginning of the school year for which the application is being made.

Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)

VPI application information is available at elementary schools, on the early childhood webpage and through the central registration office. To apply to the VPI program, parents must submit required documents with each application. All applications are submitted to the central registration office.

Disclaimer: This document is a working draft and is provided for information and discussion only. The information contained herein is subject to change.

Primary Montessori

Preschool applications are available on the early childhood webpage and at all elementary schools that house a Montessori classroom. Applications should be submitted to each eligible primary Montessori site. The Montessori application outlines eligible sites based on neighborhood school.

Lottery

After the application deadline, if there are more applications than spaces available, a random double-blind lottery will be held.

Waitlist

As a result of this lottery, a waiting list will be created. As space becomes available, admission will be offered to students on the waiting list in the order established by the lottery. Additional applications that are received after the application period will be added, in the order received, at the end of the **appropriate** wait list. **The three-year-old waiting list rolls over to become the four-year-old waiting list the following year.**

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| Preschool Locations |
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Preschool is offered at every APS elementary option school. Preschool is also offered at neighborhood elementary schools to the extent possible given financial constraints and capacity limits.

Preschool students in the schools and programs below are guaranteed admission to kindergarten at the same school. All other students must attend their neighborhood school or submit an application to attend another school.

- **ATS – VPI students**
- **Claremont – VPI students**
- **Campbell – Montessori and VPI students**
- **Key – VPI students**

APS will annually update the PIP and identify preschool locations based on the most recent capacity utilization report.