



NEW HAVEN SCHOOL READINESS

Questions Frequently Asked by Parents

What is School Readiness?

Getting children ready for kindergarten means many things. The early years are important learning years for young children. Beginning at birth, young children are exploring their world, forming relationships and trying new activities, all of which help them grow and learn. These early experiences form the foundation for success in school and life.

School Readiness is also the name given to the State grant program that provides funds to cities throughout Connecticut. The funds are distributed to local preschool programs serving children ages 3-5 years old. Each city has a School Readiness Council that advises the town's Mayor and Superintendent regarding which preschool programs should receive the annual grants.

School Readiness programs have many different names—Head Start, daycare, child care, preschool, nursery school, pre-k—they all have one thing in common: a commitment to offering high quality early childhood experiences to our youngest students. Over 30 private and public programs in New Haven receive school readiness funds, serving more than 1,100 children between the ages of 3-5 years.

How old does my child have to be to enroll?

Children must be at least 3 years old as of December 31st

Who can apply?

Only New Haven residents may apply.

Parents who work full-time, are in an approved job training programs, or are continuing their educational studies are given priority for full day programs. Full day programs operate 10 hours per day, 12 months a year to accommodate these family needs.

For those families that do not need a full day program, part day programs (4 hours per day, 10 month school calendar) and school day programs (6 hours per day, 10 month school calendar) are also offered.

How much does it cost?

Fees are set by the State Department of Education and are based on family income and family size.

Where are the programs located?

School readiness programs are located throughout the city. Some are in elementary schools, others are in private preschools. Many are accessible by public transportation.

How do I apply?

1. There is no one place to go to apply. Each program has its own application process. Contact each program directly. Enrollment is based on a first-come, first served basis.
2. Information that will be needed to complete the application process will include: verification of residency and income, child's birth certificate and health/immunization records. Once your child is accepted into the program, other information will be requested so program staff can better serve you and your child.

To discuss School Readiness and to learn which programs have openings, contact:

The New Haven School Readiness Office

Phone: 203-946-7875 ~ Email: denise.duclos@new-haven.k12.ct.us