

## Universal Preschool (UPK) Eligibility

The UPK Colorado application will not allow families to submit until they are eligible. Students must be 4 years or 3 years old with additional eligibility factors.

- [UPK CO family information sheet](#)
- UPK for 4-year-olds is a mixed delivery system where parents are able to rank and choose the provider where their child attends.
- UPK for 3-year-olds is provided through partnership with the local school district.
- Families should keep in mind that their local school district may also have separate enrollment requirements and additional information beyond what is in the UPK application may be needed (e.g., the UPK application does not accept the IEP document).
  - Families selecting Jeffco Public School sites will also complete Enroll Jeffco for their students.
  - Please see Gilpin, Clear Creek, and Boulder Valley School Districts for current requirements.
- IEP must be confirmed and documented for the family to qualify for an additional eligibility factor for UPK.
- If a student is eligible (year before kindergarten), they can apply for their initial 15 hours and then have additional eligibility added during the school year once IEP is confirmed, or other additional eligibility changes.
- Students with IEP are eligible for UPK rates:
  - 3-year-olds 10 hour/part time UPK rate
  - 4-year-olds 30 hour/full time UPK rate

Family must apply and match with participating provider. UPK rates are paid by the Colorado Dept. of Early Childhood (CDEC) to the preschool provider. UPK eligibility is based only on birthdate. If a child is eligible for kindergarten they do not qualify for UPK funds.

**There are no UPK application deadlines.** Families can apply for UPK throughout the year as eligibility status may change.

## Where are IEP and SPED Services Offered?

IEP and SPED services are offered at school district providers and school district contracted partners like Head Start for both 3- and 4-year-old students.

- Charter schools in Jeffco Public Schools are NOT considered a school district provider/do not offer IEP or SPED services.
- Families of 4-year-old UPK eligible students may waive IEP or SPED services and enroll at community provider (where they are NOT required to provide IEP or SPED support). In this instance the IEP is on hold with the school district. It can be reactivated if the family re-enrolls.
- Families of UPK eligible 3-year-olds must be served through a school district partner regardless of additional eligibility factor (IEP or other).



### **DDRC - Early Intervention Providers and Service Coordinators (Part B)**

Early Intervention - Families referred for screening and assessment, birth to age 3, will work with DDRC Service Coordinators. Service Coordinators work with families up to age 3 when they are eligible for early intervention.



### **Child Find - creates the IEP**

Child Find completes evaluation for children age 2 ½ and older and creates an IEP when a student is determined eligible for special education.



### **Jeffco Public Schools will offer FAPE**

(free appropriate public education) of 15 hours for children 3-year-old with an IEP. (Jeffco Public Schools will provide funds to cover additional 5 hours for 3-year-olds)

## Resources for Families

- Question about UPK eligibility: <https://triadbrightfutures.org/apply-for-upk/>
- IEP eligibility: contact a DDRC Service Coordinator or Early Intervention Provider
- General IEP questions: contact Child Find at 303-982-7247
- Transitioning from Early Intervention Extended Part C Option (click [here for English](#); click [here for Spanish](#))