

What is UPK? | How do I apply?

Universal Preschool (UPK) Colorado pays for every four-year-old child in the year before they are eligible for Kindergarten to attend at least a half-day of preschool. Some three-year-old children also qualify for free part-time preschool through the UPK program.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR UPK FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR?

If your child is in the year before they are eligible for Kindergarten (will be at least 4 years old by 10/1/2023), they will qualify for up to a half-day (15 hours/week) of preschool. If your child also has at least one qualifying factor, they may be eligible for additional hours. If your child will be three by 10/1/2023 and meets at least one of the qualifying factors, they may be eligible for part-time (10 hours/week) of preschool.

HOW DO FAMILIES SIGN UP AND FIND A PRESCHOOL PROVIDER?

To sign up for UPK and search for UPK providers in your area, visit upk.colorado.gov.

IS THERE A DEADLINE FOR FAMILIES TO APPLY?

No. Applications for UPK are accepted year-round and matched with providers on a rolling basis. For the best chance of being matched with your preferred UPK provider, families should apply as early as possible after the UPK application opens in January.

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFYING FACTORS FOR UPK?

Four year olds with at least one qualifying factor are eligible for 15 additional hours per week (30 total). Three year olds are eligible for UPK if they meet at least one qualifying factor:

- Household income of less than 270% of the 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines*
- The child has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- The child's primary language is not English
- The child is currently in kinship or foster care
- The family identifies as homeless or does not have an adequate nighttime residence

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS A DISABILITY?

Under the law, all children are eligible to receive Universal Preschool services. Children with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) will be served in UPK programs affiliated with the local school district to ensure that their special learning needs are met.

DOES YOUR FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN CCCAP?

Signing up for UPK allows families that participate in CCCAP to receive more tuition benefits, get the maximum number of hours of preschool each week, and reduce parent fees. That's why even if you already participate in CCCAP, you should also apply for UPK!