



**COLORADO**  
Department of Early Childhood

# Free Universal Preschool for Fall 2023

## Apply Now!

Universal Preschool (UPK) Colorado will pay for **every four-year-old child** in the year before they are eligible for Kindergarten to attend a minimum of a half-day of preschool for the 2023 - 2024 school year. **Some three-year-olds** will also qualify for free part-time preschool.

### ***Who is eligible?***

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

### ***How do I find a preschool provider?***

Go to [upk.colorado.gov](http://upk.colorado.gov) and you will be able to search what providers are available based on where you live and where you work. During the application you will be able to select your top five providers and rank them. All types of providers will be in the system from school districts to child-care centers to licensed home facilities. You will be asked if your child is already enrolled at a provider, has a sibling in a provider's care or if a parent is employed by the provider - if any of these are true, you will receive priority to match with that provider.

### ***What if I need more than 15 hours per week of preschool but don't meet the qualifying factors?***

You will still be able to enroll in a program of your choosing and the first 15 hours per week will be free and then you can pay for the additional hours or often the program can work with you to see if you might qualify for other programs to help subsidize the cost. You will be able to review the costs of each program on their page in the application program and decide which program is best for your family.

### ***What if my child has a disability?***

All children are eligible to receive universal preschool services. If your child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP), partnering with your local school district is essential in ensuring aligned resources. School districts have responsibility for ensuring a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in accordance with IDEA and ECEA. If your child does not have an IEP, and you have concern of a potential developmental delay, go to [www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/childfinddirectory](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/childfinddirectory) for information on next steps.



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