

School Districts: What does Act 166 mean for you?

Act 166, passed by the Vermont legislature in 2014, entitles all three, four, and five year-olds not enrolled in kindergarten to ten hours per week of publicly funded PreKindergarten education (PreK) for the thirty-five week school year.

The law allows families to choose from a variety of PreK programs.

Whichever prequalified PreK program a family chooses, tuition for 10-hours will be paid by the local school district. Enrollment options include:

- A prequalified PreK program operated by the local school district.
- A prequalified PreK program operated by another school district that accepts out-of-district students.
- A prequalified community-based/HeadStart PreK program located anywhere in Vermont.

Under Act 166, school districts should:

- Identify a contact person to answer questions from families and community-based programs and/or develop a communication outreach plan to inform families.
- Become familiar with Act 166 Rules & FAQ's.
- Create a process for PreK registration. Children will need to register for publicly funded PreK-whether they attend a school-based program or a community-based program. Use your kindergarten registration practices as a model.
- Check the [Bright Futures Information System](#) to confirm PreK programs requested by families are prequalified and therefore eligible for PreK funding.
- Create a process for collecting attendance from and making payments to community-based programs providing PreK services.
- Collect a signed letter of agreement from community-based programs providing PreK services for children from your district.

Decide whether you will accept out of district students in your district operated programs (funded by the student's sending district).

- Decide whether to establish a PreK Region, which limits the geographic area from which families select prequalified PreK programs. To establish a PreK Region, a school board must submit an application to the Secretaries of Education and Human Services.

[Preview the PreK Region Application.](#)

- Decide whether you want to establish or expand a district-operated PreK program. To expand or establish a district-operated PreK program, the district must submit an application to the Agencies of Education and Human Services.

[Preview the Establishing a Public School Operated PreK Program Application](#) [Preview the Expansion of a Public School Operated PreK Program Application.](#)

More information can be found on [Universal Prekindergarten](#) online.

For more information about IEP, 504, and ADA please see the [Serving Children with Disabilities in a Public PreK Program webinar.](#)

Contact [Mack Jones](#) with additional questions.