


MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Directors of Student Support Services,
Prekindergarten Education Coordinators

FROM: Secretary Daniel M. French, Ed.D. 

SUBJECT: Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Eligibility and Enrollment

DATE: September 11, 2020

This memo clarifies prekindergarten education (PreK) eligibility in the case of a five-year-old whose parent completed the kindergarten registration process, but has decided to send their child to a public or private PreK program rather than kindergarten, this school year. 16 V.S.A. §829 and SBE Rule 2602 (7) defines a prekindergarten child as a child who is three, four or five years of age by the date established by the district of residence for kindergarten eligibility and not yet enrolled in kindergarten.

Children who are five years old (as of the first day of school in their district of residence) who are either not eligible for or not enrolled in kindergarten are entitled to receive 10 hours of publicly funded prekindergarten education.

This guidance provides further clarification on what is meant by enrolled in kindergarten.

A child is considered eligible for 10 hours of publicly funded prekindergarten if the child is eligible by age (is five years of age by the date established by the district of residence), and the family has completed all or part of the district of residence enrollment paperwork; and either

- the child has not yet attended kindergarten (in person or remote); or
- the family subsequently withdraws their child's enrollment in kindergarten.

In other words, "enrolled" should be read as synonymous with a child's kindergarten attendance, rather than a reference to an enrollment paperwork process.

Therefore, upon request of the family of a five-year-old child who is not yet enrolled (as defined above) or attending kindergarten, a school district should, as applicable:

- support enrollment of the child in a prequalified prekindergarten education program that the school district operates; or
 - pay tuition to a prequalified public or private PreK program.
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Contact Information:

If you have questions about this document or would like additional information, please contact:

Kate Rogers, Early Education Programs Manager at kate.rogers@vermont.gov

For children who turn six years of age during the school year the school district, may, at its discretion, continue to pay PreK tuition to a public or private PreK program through the end of the school year or ensure that families are informed that PreK tuition will cease and not continue once their child turns six years of age.