

## Commack Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK)

### Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Is the UPK program free?** Yes, the program will be free.
- 2. Is the UPK program half day or full day?** The program will be either half day (2.5 hours, 5 days a week) or full day (5 hours per day, 5 days a week).
- 3. Is the program run by the School District?** The program will be run by three community-based organizations\*\*:
  - Building Blocks Developmental Preschool – 29 Pinewood Drive, Commack
  - Kiddie Care Early Learning – 1 Bette Lane, Commack
  - The Suffolk Y JCC – 74 Hauppauge Road, Commack
- 4. What is the calendar for UPK?** The program follows the Commack School District calendar.
- 5. Who is eligible for UPK?** Children residing within the Commack School District who turn 4 years of age by December 1, 2024, are eligible for the program.
- 6. If I register my child for the lottery, are they guaranteed a placement in the program?** No, placement for the UPK program is determined by selection in the lottery. Lottery registration will take place in May.
- 7. If I have multiple children and one gets into the program through the lottery will the other child(ren) be admitted as well?** No, all names will be entered into the lottery and only the names drawn will be granted admittance. In addition, multiple children in the same family are not guaranteed placement in the same building.
- 8. How will I know if my child has been chosen?** Parents of children selected for the program will be notified via email after the lottery takes place and the state provides accurate grant information for the program.
- 9. Where will the UPK program be housed?** The program will be housed at the three community-based organization locations.
- 10. Will my child attend the Pre-K program closest to their house?** We cannot guarantee placement in a particular building. However, when registering your child for the lottery, you can indicate the location you would like your child to attend, and we will make every attempt to accommodate your request.
- 11. Is before/after school care offered for students participating in Pre-K?** Please contact the community-based organizations for more information about before/after care.
- 12. What type of curriculum will be taught in the program?** All providers contracted by the Commack School District must follow all standards set forth by the New York State Education Department.
- 13. Will transportation be provided?** No, transportation is not provided for this program.
- 14. Does my child need to be toilet trained to attend the program?** Yes, all children should be toilet trained to attend.
- 15. If my child did not get a spot in the lottery, is there a chance they will be able to get into UPK?** Yes, after all slots are filled, the remaining lottery numbers are added onto a wait-list. If students drop out of the program before the start of the school year, the Registration Office will contact families on the wait list in their lottery order.

\*Number of spots based on current NYS Budget projections. Numbers may differ based on actual budget.

\*\* Pending Board of Education approval