

Rutland South Supervisory Union

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Universal Pre-K Guidance and Information for Parents

Universal Pre-Kindergarten is a reality in Vermont as of July 1, 2016. Three and four year old students will have the opportunity to access pre-K options in a wide variety of locations beginning in August 2016. However, there are limitations. This document is intended to provide guidance to parents of preschool-aged children.

Important Concepts

1. Each Supervisory Union or School District in the state has made a determination with regard to where its local tax dollars are able to go for pre-K attendance. In the RSSU/MRUUSD we did not establish boundaries, meaning that students who reside in our district can theoretically attend pre-K at any location in the state that is approved. Other districts have set more restrictive boundaries for their tax dollars, meaning that children from those areas may in fact not be able to attend pre-K outside of the specific boundaries they have set.
2. Funds follow students. This means that if your supervisory union or district permits your child to attend another school and that school is approved by the state, the tuition is paid by your home district up to a state-approved amount (approximately \$3100/yr.).
3. All schools must serve the needs of local students as a first priority. This means that, if a local pre-K is full in a location where you wish to have your child attend, you will be placed on a wait list and will not be able to bump a local student out of their access to the pre-K program or in turn force that school to hire more staff to accommodate your child.

Process for Parents who are considering having their child attend a pre-K program other than the program at their local elementary school

1. Talk to your local elementary school principal. Make sure that they know who you are and what you are seeking for your child to do regarding pre-K attendance. That principal will also notify the RSSU/MRUUSD central office so that we are aware as well.
2. Talk to the principal at the elementary school or pre-K location where you seek to send your child. Make sure that they know who you are and what your intentions are. They will inform you of whether or not there is space for your child.
3. If the program you seek is approved by the state and your desired location has space work with the principal/director/head of school at that location to ensure that your child is registered.
4. Contact the RSSU/MRUUSD central office at 775-3264 to inform us of the final outcome for your child.
5. The receiving school will bill the RSSU/MRUUSD for your child's tuition costs. If for some reason the costs for the receiving school are higher than the allowable state cost you will be responsible for any remaining costs.

RSSU Pre-K Times and locations

Clarendon Elementary School 3 year-olds – M-F, 8:30-10:30
4 year-olds – M-F, 12:00-3:30

Shrewsbury Mountain School M-Th, 8:20-11:35

Tinmouth Elementary School M-F, 8:20-3:20

Wallingford Elementary School 3 year-olds – Th-F, 8:30-1:30
4 year-olds – M-W, 8:30-1:30