

English

Pre **K** Boston

**Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK)**, is a program that is funded by the City of Boston and promises to deliver on **high-quality** choices that are **free of cost** to Boston's **three and four year old** children. Pre-K is a 6.5 hour school day for 180 days per year.

The Boston UPK model offers the **same high-quality programming in a variety of settings**:

Boston Public  
SchoolsIndependent  
SchoolsFamily Child  
CareCommunity  
Centers**High-quality Pre-K means:**

- Boston Public Schools' (BPS) UPK program **exceeds national standards**.
- All Pre-K teachers have a **degree in early childhood education** and are prepared to teach in classroom settings to **support students of all backgrounds** and needs.
- Teachers receive **ongoing professional development** throughout the year to enhance their teaching.
- Expert coaches provide **ongoing support to teachers**.
- Students learn from the **Boston Public Schools Focus on Pre-K curriculum** and the **Building Blocks curriculum**, which are national models in early childhood education.
- All classroom environments are **age-appropriate** and **culturally responsive**.

Get to Know the UPK Family Handbook  
using the QR Code



**Who is eligible?**

Any child who is a City of Boston resident and will be three or four years old by September 1st of the upcoming school year is eligible.

**How can I apply?**

To enroll your student in UPK at one of our community providers and independent schools, we ask that you visit our page on the BPS website ([www.bostonpublicschools.org/upk](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/upk)) and click on the “Apply Now” button. You can also reach out to the UPK Enrollment Team at [upk@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:upk@bostonpublicschools.org), or call us at 617-635-1507. Translation is provided upon request. Applications are considered on a rolling basis until all seats are filled across all providers.

**Why is UPK enrollment separate from BPS enrollment?**

Registration for Pre-K in Boston Public Schools classrooms is through BPS Welcome Services, who manages school registration. Because community providers and BPS are separate entities, a separate enrollment process was created to more effectively meet the needs of the providers who committed to partner with UPK to serve Boston’s 3 and 4 year olds free of cost. Though enrollment for a BPS classroom seat and UPK seat in a community program are separate, the programming, student experience, teacher support, and instruction are intended to be the same. The City of Boston recognizes that separate enrollment systems can create more questions for families, so the city is committed to developing a unified enrollment platform in the near future.