



## 2026-2027 NC Pre-K Application

### *Let's Get Started!*

#### **What is NC Pre-K?**

NC Pre-K is a high-quality preschool for vulnerable children aged 4. The purpose is to provide engaging and nurturing early learning experiences to ensure longer term success in school. Classes are offered within Guilford County Schools (GCS), the Head Start program at Generation Ed, and private childcare centers. Transportation and/or extended care options are not offered by GCS; and available at some, but not all other sites.

#### **Who is eligible for NC Pre-K?**

Children who will be four years old on or before August 31, 2026. Priority is given to children who have not had prior preschool experience, may be economically disadvantaged, or have a developmental delay. Slots are limited, and we encourage you to apply in early Spring.

#### **Before you begin the application process...**

We recommend that you have all the required information and documentation prepared **BEFORE** you begin the application process. Once you have the documentation needed to apply, it is easiest to complete the online application using a computer or your smart phone.

#### **What You Will Need:**

1. **Proof of Birth** (copy of birth certificate **OR** medical records **OR** immunization records)
2. **Proof of Residency** (copy of current utility bill **OR** rental agreement **OR** valid driver's license/ID)
  - Documentation must have the *same* physical address listed on the application.
3. **Proof of Income** (copy of 2025 1040 **OR** 2025 W-2 **OR** 4 recent, consecutive paystubs)
  - Additional income, if applicable, such as child support, unemployment benefits, workers compensation, and/or SSA/SSI/SSDI.
4. **If Applicable** – Documentation of chronic health condition, parent's military service, development or educational needs, and/or Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Documentation is required for additional eligibility factors that include homelessness, foster care, receiving refugee services, public housing, TANF/Work First, Medicaid, SSI, Food and Nutrition Services (Food Stamps), or SNAP. (Documentation is only needed for one additional eligibility factor).

#### **How do I submit the application and the required documentation?**

See back side.

## To submit the application and the required documentation?

- Submit online at [www.GuilfordChildren.org](http://www.GuilfordChildren.org)
- If you are unable to apply online, email [NCPreK@GuilfordChildren.org](mailto:NCPreK@GuilfordChildren.org) or call (336) 274-5437 to schedule an appointment to apply in person.
- The Guilford County Partnership for Children is located at 4900 Koger Boulevard, Suite 151, Greensboro, NC 27407. Our office is open to the public Monday through Thursday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM and Friday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM.

## More about the documentation that you will need to apply...

- |                          |                                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Proof of Birth        | 6. Worker's Compensation              |
| 2. Proof of Residency    | 7. SSA/SSI/SSDI                       |
| 3. Proof of Income       | 8. Chronic Health Condition           |
| 4. Child Support         | 9. Parental Military Service          |
| 5. Unemployment Benefits | 10. Developmental or Educational Need |
|                          | 11. Additional Eligibility Factors    |

1. **Proof of Birth** – Submit a copy of one of the following documents:
  - Register of Deeds office (birth certificate)
  - Birth certificate given to mother at hospital
  - Immunization record from pediatrician's office
  - Checkup document given to parent at a well-child visit
  - Insurance cards such as Medicaid **IF** it includes child's name and date of birth.

**NOTE:** Guilford County Schools will require a certified copy of your child's birth certificate if they attend one of their sites.
2. **Proof of Residency** – Submit a copy of one of the following documents:
  - Parent's driver's license or ID card – obtained from driver's license office
  - Any bill you receive in the mail or online with the current physical address
  - Copy of your lease with the address listed – obtain from your rental agent
  - **Note:** The *physical* address that is listed on the application must match the *physical* address on your documentation.
3. **Proof of Income** – Submit a copy of one of the following documents:
  - 2025 federal income tax form (1040 or 1099) from tax agency or online tax company
  - 2025 W-2 from employer
  - Consecutive paystubs from employer (must show gross income) – 4 if paid weekly, 2 if paid biweekly, 1 if paid monthly
  - Written letter from company with pay rate, number of hours worked per week, and the pay frequency (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, etc.)
  - Offer letter for employment from employer with pay rate, number of hours worked per week, and the pay frequency (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, etc.)
  - If you are self-employed, you may submit a tax return, quarterly tax filing, bank statement showing business income for three months
4. **Child Support** - Court ordered or recurring voluntary payments. Submit a copy of one of the following:
  - Statement from parent/absent parent with the amount and frequency of payments **OR**
  - Copy of court order, which may be requested from the clerk of court in the county which ordered the child support.
  - Print-out or screenshot from the website showing amounts received (must include name or other identifying information).
  - Here is the link: <https://ncchildsupport.com/ecoa/parentsIndex.jsp>
5. **Unemployment Benefits**
  - Letter with amount to be received and the maximum amount a person can receive. This is mailed to each person receiving unemployment benefits.

6. **Worker's Compensation**
  - Letter from employer with amount of worker's compensation and the period in which worker's compensation will be received.
7. **SSA/SSI/SSDI**
  - Letter from the Social Security Administration stating the type of social security payment and the amount to be received
8. **Chronic Health Condition** – Provide a copy of paperwork that fits your child's situation such as:
  - Document from doctor's office stating the condition is chronic.
  - This can be on the well-child visit paperwork.
  - Asthma – document from doctor's office stating chronic asthma.
  - Some children have asthma, but not all asthma is chronic. It must have "chronic" stated on the document from the doctor's office.
  - Any medical document or evaluation from a therapist or doctor stating the medical condition.  
**NOTE:** For example, Sickle Cell Anemia **IS** a chronic health condition; food allergies or eczema **ARE NOT** chronic health conditions.)
9. **Parental Military Service** – Submit a copy of **ONE** of the following documents:
  - Letter from branch of service stating active duty.
  - Paystub for an active-duty member who is the mother or father.
  - Letter from branch of service stating the parent was seriously injured or killed while on active duty
10. **Developmental or Educational Need** – Submit a copy of **one** of the following documents:
  - Child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) from the local school system
  - Child's current plan of care from the therapist delivering the service
11. **Additional Eligibility Factors** – If applicable, submit documentation for **one** additional eligibility factor. Documentation is only needed for **one** additional eligibility factor.

Examples of documentation may include, but are not limited to:

- Parent statement (McKinney-Vento Verification) regarding homelessness status. Contact our office for form.
- Letter/statement from DSS regarding foster care placement
- Documentation is required for additional public assistance eligibility factors that include homelessness, foster care, receiving refugee services, public housing, TANF/Work First, Medicaid, SSI, WIC, Food and Nutrition Services (Food Stamps), or SNAP. These must be dated and include recipients' name and/or identifying information and be less than 12 months old from time of application.  
**NOTE:** We do **NOT** accept EBT cards for eligibility purposes.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- |                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Application Season | 5. Age Guidelines              |
| 2. Guardianship       | 6. Residency Guidelines        |
| 3. Family Size        | 7. Limited English Proficiency |
| 4. Income Guidelines  | 8. What Happens Next?          |

### 1. Application Season

- a. When can we start applying for upcoming year?
  - i. You can start applying for the next academic year in January.
- b. Is it too late to submit an application for this year?
  - i. No, it is not too late to submit an application. We accept applications all year. We place children in sites that have openings until April.
- c. Do I submit original documents or copies?
  - i. Submit **copies** of any supporting documents. Do **not** submit original documents with the application.

### 2. Guardianship or other custodial arrangements – Who Submits the Application?

- a. 50/50 Custody – Only **one** parent should apply listing both parents on the application. Whichever parent is submitting the application, must submit the required documents **AND** documentation of the custody arrangement should be included.  
  
For other custody arrangements the parent with primary custody should complete the application.
- b. Legal Guardian – If you are a legal guardian, you must submit the required documents for the application as well as the court orders showing legal guardianship.
- c. Guardian or kinship provider – If a guardian is taking care of the child but do not have legal guardianship, they can submit the required documents as well as a completed “kinship form.” Contact our office for a copy of the Kinship Form.
- d. Foster Care – If the child is in foster care, the person completing the application will need to submit a copy of the letter provided by the Division of Health and Human Services that states the child is in their care. They will not have to provide any income documentation, and they should only list the number of biological siblings (full or half) in the household.

### 3. Family Size

- a. Why do you need sibling ages?
  - i. The number of siblings determines “family size” and is related to eligibility.
- b. Family size includes:
  - i. The Pre-K child
  - ii. Parents and stepparents **living in the same household**
  - iii. All minor brothers and sister, half-brothers, half-sisters, stepbrothers and stepsisters **living in the same household**

**NOTE:** Minor siblings include anyone up to age 18 and still attending high school **at the time** the child’s application is submitted.

### 4. Income Guidelines

- a. What if I have no income?
  - i. A “no income” form must be completed and can be obtained from our office.
- b. If my family is over income, do I still use this application?
  - i. Yes, you use the same application if you want a GCS school site as GCS does not use income as a primary factor in placement.
  - ii. There is a family size and income chart on our website.

### 5. Age Guidelines

- a. How old must my child be to attend NC Pre-K?
  - i. For the 2025-2026 school year, the child must turn four by August 31, 2025. Birthdays must fall between September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021.
  - ii. For 2026-2027, the child must turn four by August 31, 2026. Birthdays must fall between September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2022.

### 6. Residency Guidelines

- a. Do I have to live in Guilford County to apply here?
  - i. Yes, you must live in Guilford County.
  - ii. If you move but remain in Guilford County, you will need to contact us to update the address on your application. **DO NOT COMPLETE A SECOND APPLICATION!**
  - iii. If you live or move outside of Guilford County, you will need to apply in that county.

### 7. Limited English Proficiency (English as a Second Language).

- a. What if my child only understands a little English?
  - i. Check “no” for the question does your child speak and understand English.

## 8. What Happens Next?

- a. What happens after my application is complete?
  - i. If you have any GCS choices, you will receive an email from [gcs-prek@gcsnc.com](mailto:gcs-prek@gcsnc.com) to complete the online Ages and Stages in about four to six weeks after your application is completed.
- b. When will I know if my child was accepted into NC Pre-K?
  - i. If you have a GCS first choice, it will be mid-June.
  - ii. If you have a private or Generation Ed (Head Start) choice, it will be mid-June.
- c. What happens if my child is placed, but I need to make changes to my application?
  - i. If you have been assigned to a GCS site and need to make changes to your application, please contact the Guilford County Schools Pre-K Office at (336) 370-2362 or email [gcs-prek@gscnc.com](mailto:gcs-prek@gscnc.com). **DO NOT COMPLETE A SECOND APPLICATION.**
  - ii. If you have been assigned to a Private child care site or a Generation Ed (Head Start) site and need to make changes to your application, please contact the Guilford County Partnership for Children at (336) 274-5437 or email [NCprek@GuilfordChildren.org](mailto:NCprek@GuilfordChildren.org).