

Welcome to Kindergarten

Kindergarten Registration FAQ:

➤ What Kindergarten programs are offered in Westford?

Westford has three K-2 elementary schools: Miller, Nabnasset and Robinson. Each school offers three full day classes in addition to the half day classes. Half day kindergarten is free; full-day and extended day programs are available by a lottery for an additional fee.

➤ Which school will my child attend?

Your child's school is determined by your address. Check the district map and the list of streets at:

<https://www.westfordk12.us/district/transportation/pages/enrollment-districts>

➤ What are the hours and cost of each kindergarten program?

- Half day AM session - 9:05 am to 11:35 am. There is no cost for the half day session.
- Half day PM session - 12:40 pm to 3:10 pm. There is no cost for the half day session.
- Full day program - 9:05 am to 3:10 pm. Cost for the 2019-2020 school year is \$4200.
- Extended day program - 9:05 am to 3:10 pm. Cost for the 2019-2020 school year is \$3500.

➤ For the half day program, will my child attend the AM session or the PM session?

The AM or PM assignment depends on your address and is determined by the bus routes. Many routes remain the same from year to year, but occasionally the routes can change. The AM or PM session assignments are made in June.

➤ What is the Extended Day program?

The Extended Day program extends the half-day session into a full day from 9:05 am to 3:10 pm. For example, an AM Kindergarten student would attend Kindergarten from 9:05 am to 11:35 am and then attend Extended Day from 11:35 am to 3:10 pm. A PM Kindergarten student would attend Extended Day from 9:05 am to 12:40 pm and attend Kindergarten from 12:40 pm to 3:10 pm. This program may not be available if there is not enough participation. This decision is reviewed each year by the building principal and is made prior to July 1st.

➤ How do I apply for the full day or extended day options?

To enter into either lottery, fill out the form available at Early Kindergarten Registration. Please note the due date on the form.

Important Dates:

☐ March 9, 2020 6:00-8:00 pm or March 10, 2020 9:00 am-12:00 pm: Early Kindergarten Registration. Bring all necessary paperwork: child's birth certificate, most recent immunizations, proof of physical and lead test, as well as the specific documents needed to prove your residency.

See list of documents here:

<https://www.westfordk12.us/district/student-registration/pages/registration-forms>

For example: copy of deed to house or lease agreement, plus a recent utility bill, and your driver's license. If you cannot attend, please visit your K-2 school during school hours. Plan to spend approximately 30 minutes completing paperwork and meeting with staff members.

☐ March 31, 2020: Lottery day. The lottery is open to the public however, it is not necessary to attend. Letters will be sent home with decision in a few days.

☐ April 16, 2020: Full Day Kindergarten deposit due.

☐ May 6, 2020: Extended Day deposit due.

☐ May: Kindergarten Information Night at your child's school.

☐ May: Kindergarten Screenings. During an individually scheduled time, your child will complete the required kindergarten screening at your child's school. A staff member will greet your child and will meet with them for approximately 10-20 minutes. They will complete a few fun activities that will help determine your child's readiness for kindergarten.

☐ June: Letters are sent out with teacher assignments and AM or PM session assignment for half day kindergarten students. Register for bus pass.

☐ September: Orientation for your child in small groups with the teacher while parent fills out paperwork (emergency cards, etc).

Transportation:

A bus pass is required for all students riding the bus. If you live within 2 miles of your school, you will need to pay a fee to use the bus (\$275 for 2019-2020). The bus will transport AM Kindergarten children home at mid-day and will pick up PM Kindergarten children. The bus can transport your child to a day care center if it is within the child's school district.

<https://www.westfordk12.us/district/transportation>

Additional Care Options:

- Before School Care: Available at each school for drop off between 7-8:30 am.
The 2020-2021 rate is \$250/year
<https://www.westfordk12.us/district/transportation/pages/early-arrival-option>
- After School Care:
 - Private daycare: must be in child's school district to be bussed there.
 - Westford Partnership for Children rents the school's space from 3:00-5:45 pm.
This program is run through Westford Parks & Recreation Dept.
<https://www.westfordrec.com/info/default.aspx>
Pay by block of time needed, (3:10-4:00 pm; 4:00-5:00 pm; 5:00-5:45 pm). Each block is \$12 or full-time five days is \$1100. Choose activities for each block.
 - Kids League program: runs at 10 Church St and children can be bussed from any school. Runs until 6:00 pm. Snack, outdoor time, clubs, activities, homework time.
Pay by number of days needed. 2019-2020 rates ranged from \$235 (2 days) to \$465 (5 days). Available for extra fees on Prof Dev days, scheduled Early Release days, Feb/April vacations, MLK Jr Day. <http://kidsleaguwestford.com/>
 - The Roudenbush Community Center: offers classes during after school hours and will arrange to transfer your child to and from the activity.
<https://www.roudenbush.org/schoolage-1>

Additional Information:

- Tuition for Full Day Kindergarten is considered an educational program and is not tax deductible.
- Cost for Extended Day Kindergarten is considered a daycare program for dependent care accounts and tax purposes.
- What academic content will the full day students learn that the half day students do not? (From District's FAQ: "No "new" academic content will be taught in full day that will not be taught in the half-day program. Instead, students will be given more time to experience the content in a variety of ways." The Kindergarten standards set by the state are the same for full and half day programs. Therefore, the students in both programs are learning the same academic control. However, the students in full day kindergarten will have more time to explore those concepts more deeply.
- Will my child be expected to sit still and pay attention for long periods of time? (From District's FAQ: "No. We do not ask our students to be "passive learners" the way many envision based on our own childhood schooling experiences. Our talented staff structures the learning environments in a way that allows students to actively experience the curriculum through the uses of movement, manipulatives, play, imagination, and collaboration."