



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 or four full day classes in addition to the half day classes. Half day kindergarten is free; full-day is available by a lottery for a 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?

- o Half day AM session – 9:05 am to 11:35 am. There is no cost for the half day session.
- o Half day PM session – 12:40 pm to 3:10 pm. There is no cost for the half day session.
- o Full day program – 9:05 am to 3:10 pm. Cost for the 2021-2022 school year is \$4200.

➤ 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.

➤ How do I apply for the full day option?

To enter into the lottery, fill out the form available at the In-person Kindergarten Registration, there will be an application form in the packet. Please note the due date on the form.

Important Dates:

❑ March 8 and 9, 2021, 5 - 8 pm or March 10, 2021, 1 - 4 pm: In-person Kindergarten Registration, please 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, 2021: Lottery day.

❑ April 16, 2021: Full Day Kindergarten 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 a 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 (to be determined). 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 daycare center if it is within the child's school district.

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

Additional Information:

- Tuition for Full Day Kindergarten is considered an educational program and is not tax deductible.

- 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.”