



Summer Preschool Funding Application Overview

School Districts, Charter Schools, and Head Start Programs

Early Learning Services

May 2021

Agenda

- Application Timeline
- Overview of Summer Preschool Funding
- Funding Process and Requirements
- Application Process
- Application Demonstration
- The slides from this presentation will be posted on the [MDE Early Learning Programs webpage](#). A recording was emailed to programs; contact MDE.ELS@state.mn.us to request a recording.

Application Timeline

Action	Date
Application opens	Monday, May 24, 2021
Open Office Hours Webinar	Tuesday, May 25, 2021 11-12 p.m.
Applications due	Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.
Programs notified of funding status	Friday, June 4, 2021
Funding begins	June 15, 2021
Final report due	October 1, 2021

Overview of Summer Preschool Funding

Purpose of Summer Preschool Funding

\$20 million in Summer Preschool Funding is available to:

- Provide access to a high quality early learning program to help children develop their social-emotional skills before they begin kindergarten.
- Serve historically underserved communities and children who have experienced life circumstances that may have prevented them from being able to attend a high-quality early childhood program due to COVID-19.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

- School districts
- Charter schools with authorized early childhood programs
- Head Start programs
- Parent Aware Three- and Four-Star rated child care centers and licensed family child care centers.

Summer Preschool Funding Child Eligibility

- Children who were **4 or 5 years old on September 1, 2020** and **have not attended kindergarten**.
- Priority for Summer Preschool seats should go to the following:
 - Children in foster care, under child protection, experiencing homelessness, tribally enrolled, or the children of teenage parents.
 - Children at risk for or currently receiving supports and services such as Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) or English learners.
 - Children qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch or other public assistance programs that demonstrate a household income of 185 percent or less of the federal poverty guidelines.
- Highest priority should be given to children qualifying under multiple categories and those who have not participated in an early childhood group setting.
- After prioritizing, the Summer Preschool funds may be used to support additional children meeting the age requirements and have not attended kindergarten.

Summer Preschool Requirements: Scheduling

- Programs must offer a minimum of **100 hours** between June 15, 2021 and first day of kindergarten programming at your local school district/charter school.
 - Programs may offer more than 100 instructional hours, but must meet the minimum.
 - Programs may offer multiple calendars, as long as all calendars meet the minimum hours.
- Programs may set their own calendar (hours per day, days per week, and total number of weeks), but the total instructional hours must be 100 or more.
 - To calculate instructional hours, take the hours per day x days per week x number of weeks.
- Programming must be **in person**, and distance learning cannot be counted in total instructional hours.

Summer Preschool Requirements: Instruction

- Programming must meet the requirements of your program type's service delivery model:
 - School readiness statutory requirements
 - Voluntary prekindergarten/school readiness plus statutory requirements
 - Head Start performance standards
 - Parent Aware Three- or Four-Star rating standards
- There is no Summer Preschool Funding requirement to collect child assessment data over the summer.

Summer Preschool Requirements: Reporting

- By October 1, 2021, programs must submit the Summer Preschool Child Enrollment Report. MDE will provide the report template.
- Requested information will include:
 - **Child Demographics:** Child name, date of birth, race and ethnicity, Summer Preschool priority status, if available: State Student Identification Number (SSID).
 - Include all children that benefited directly or indirectly from the funding.
 - **Calendar details:** Hours per day, days per week, total number of weeks, total instructional hours for each child.
 - **Program details:** Start and end date of your program, other funding streams that were used to support your program.

Summer Preschool: Additional Considerations

- **Screening:** Early Childhood Screening is an important step to support children before entering kindergarten.
 - Make sure all children participating in Summer Preschool are screened right away to make sure your program type's service delivery model requirements are met.
- **Meals:** Programs should check with their district/school food service director to figure out how to coordinate meals for the preschool program students.
 - Additional questions related to the Child Nutrition (CN) programs can be submitted to MDE through the [Food and Nutrition Service \(FNS\) Customer Service Form](#).
- **Partnerships:** Consider using partnerships to leverage space, staff, transportation, or other components of the program including combining and sharing enrollment.

Funding Process and Requirements

Summer Preschool Funding

- \$20 million in Summer Preschool Funds will be allocated to serve at least 4,145 children statewide across all program types.
- For every **\$4,800** in funding, programs must serve at least **one** child.
 - Programs can serve more than one child per \$4,800, but must serve at least the minimum.
- School district, charter schools, and Head Start programs are automatically eligible for a pre-determined allocation of Summer Preschool Funds.
 - Districts/Charter Schools: Formula based on 2020-21 kindergarten poverty concentration.
 - Head Start: Formula based on State Fiscal Year 2021 Head Start Allocation.
- The minimum allocation per program is **\$14,400** to serve at least three children.
 - On May 24, programs were emailed their minimum Summer Preschool allocation and number of seats.

Summer Preschool Funding, Continued

- Programs will complete the Summer Preschool Funds Application to accept or decline Summer Preschool Funds.
 - In the application, programs will indicate how much additional funding they could accept, should additional funding become available.
 - For each additional \$4,800 requested, programs must serve a least one additional child.
- If programs decline funding or do not respond by the deadline, unallocated funds will be redistributed based on poverty concentration and the amount requested in the application.

Payment for Funded Programs

- Funds will be distributed in metered payments directly from MDE. Tentative installment dates:
 1. 50% by June 30, 2021
 2. 25% by July 31, 2021.
 3. 25% (balance) between September 15 – October 10.
- The Summer Preschool Child Enrollment Report is submitted (due October 1, 2021) must be submitted to receive final payment.
- If a program has unused funds after summer 2021, they can be used for summer program in summer 2022.
 - If funds are rolled forward to summer 2022, a second Child Enrollment Report will be submitted.
- If programs do not have sufficient enrollment or do not complete the required reporting, they may not receive payment.

What Can Summer Preschool Funds be Used For?

Allowable Uses:

- Tuition
- Teachers and staff
- Transportation
- Food service not provided through the Summer Food Service or the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
- Interpreter or multilingual support costs
- Mental health consultants and inclusion specialists
- Materials/consumables
 - Can include instructional materials from curriculum/assessment.
- Field trip or special guest expenses
- Family engagement activities and events that support transitions to kindergarten

Unallowable Uses:

- Curriculum and assessment
- Capital improvements or projects
- Professional development for staff
- Technology
- Supplanting staff time already funded through Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

Funding Considerations

- Summer Preschool Funds can be used with other funding streams to offer your summer program.
 - Consider: School readiness, Early Learning Scholarships, Head Start state or federal funds, Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) funds, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) funds, or other local funds.
- Parent paid fees:
 - Covering tuition and fees are an allowable use, and Summer Preschool Funds can pay for these costs in full.
 - If tuition or fees are charged, they should be charged on a sliding fee scale starting at \$0.
- CCAP: Families may also qualify for or already have CCAP.
 - Summer Preschool Funding can be used to offset participation in the summer programming not covered by the child's CCAP authorization.
- Summer Preschool Funds can only be used for children who were 4 or 5 on September 1, 2020, but other sources could be used to fund younger children.
 - For example, Pathway II scholarships can be used for 3-year-olds, while Summer Preschool Funds can be used for 4- and 5-year-olds who have not attended kindergarten.

Application Process

Sections of the Application

- Program Information
 - Programs will not report individual sites in the application. Funds may be used at any site in your district, charter, or Head Start programs.
- Summer Preschool Seats
 - Accept/decline the minimum seats offered, and identify additional seats you could accept.
- Statement of Assurances
 - Official with Authority sign electronically within the online form.
 - Must have apparent authority – such as Superintendent, Executive Director, Owner, Center Director, or other apparent authority.

Application Demonstration

Application Tips and Reminders

- Start only one application per program.
- Fill in preliminary information and click the “Submit” button at the end of the application. This creates a confirmation email with a link you can use to edit your responses.
- Use your edit link to return to edit your responses and re-submit as many times as needed before the deadline.
 - Think of the “submit” button as a “save” button.
- If you cannot find your confirmation email or edit link, please email MDE.ELS@state.mn.us and we can send a copy of your link.
 - Do **not** start a brand new application.

Application Resources

- View the [MDE Early Learning Programs](#) for Summer Preschool Application guidance:
 - View these Summer Preschool Application Webinar Slides.
 - View the Summer Preschool Frequently Asked Questions Guidance Document.
- Email MDE.ELS@state.mn.us with any additional questions.
 - In the email, include your program name and program type (district/charter, Head Start, or child care) so we can best answer your questions.

Thank you!

Early Learning Services

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