



## ***NC Pre-Kindergarten Application Instructions 2026-2027***

**North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K)** is a high-quality, **FREE\*** educational program designed to enhance school readiness and prepare four-year-olds for Kindergarten. *NC Pre-K* classrooms typically operate on the local school system calendar. \*The only costs that may be associated with the NC Pre-K program would be a fee to cover the partial/full costs of meals when families do not qualify for free/reduced-priced meals.

**Transportation is not provided by NC Pre-K.**

Many factors are considered when determining eligibility. Your child must be **4 years old on or before August 31, 2026**, in order to be considered for a slot. In addition to your child's age, a high priority is placed on serving children who are "at-risk", such as low income or limited English proficiency. Information collected with your child's application will help determine your child's eligibility and potential placement in the program.

**Applications will be accepted ONLINE ONLY beginning January 9, 2026. Applications received after April 10, 2026 (priority placement deadline) may be considered for a NC Pre-K slot ONLY when there are openings. Child placement at sites will begin in July. Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.**

Please submit a **completed**, online application and upload the following documents:

- ☐ Parent/Guardian photo ID
- ☐ A copy of your child's birth certificate (mother's copy is accepted)
- ☐ Income verification (one month's worth of most recent check stubs). Individuals self-employed may provide current Income Tax Return 1099-NEC form. Please provide other income verification if applicable: Unemployment benefits, Child Support, Work First, or SSI. If you don't have a current income source please submit the No Income Form on our website.
- ☐ If parent/caregiver is attending school, provide most recent college schedule which shows your name
- ☐ Proof of street address (utility bills, mortgage bill, or lease. We cannot accept a cell phone bill, cable bill, car taxes, etc.)
- ☐ Proof of the following if any of these apply
  - a. Military documentation
  - b. Letter from the doctor or current health assessment indicating the child has a chronic health condition AND how NC Pre-K will help the child
  - c. IEP or private therapy documentation
  - d. Letter from doctor or current health assessment indicating the child has a developmental need
  - e. Documentation regarding custody or guardianship of the child if applicable
  - f. Documentation of the family receiving public assistance, refugee services, in foster care, or experiencing homelessness.

If accepted, your child's assigned school will require your child's current (dated after 8-2025) shot record, Children's Medical Report form (including a vision & hearing screening) & Dental Assessment form. \*These will be due within 30 days from the first day of school. You will be notified by e-mail if your child has been accepted into the program. This program is based on the limited availability of State funding, as well as classroom availability.

**Need help completing an application or have questions?**

**Email [ssrncpk@gmail.com](mailto:ssrncpk@gmail.com) or call 704-630-9085 to schedule an appointment**  
**Smart Start Rowan, 1329 Jake Alexander Blvd. S, Salisbury, NC 28146**