



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-old's 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 or call 704-630-9085 to schedule an appointment

Smart Start Rowan, 1329 Jake Alexander Blvd. S, Salisbury, NC 28146