



ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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The Athol-Royalston Regional School District is committed to providing challenging educational experiences that inspire students to acquire the knowledge and skills to become responsible citizens in the global community.

2022-23 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The preschool operates under the guiding principle that all children are capable of learning. The program provides a developmental curriculum in an inclusive environment for students to engage in. Our focus is on play-based learning, social and emotional development, with further emphasis on respect for human differences. The classrooms are open to enrollment for all students, but will prioritize enrollment for students on Individual Education Programs (IEPs). Once enrollment for priority students are identified, the district will use a lottery system to fill remaining seats for students that are not on an IEP that will be considered peers. For students to be considered for the program, they will have to meet an age and other eligibility criteria before entering. All classrooms are staffed by a MA/DESE certified early childhood teacher and an instructional assistant.

The ARRSD Preschool program runs two programs, a Monday through Thursday program in the morning for students who are age three, and a Monday through Friday program in the afternoons for students who are four or five year olds. There are three preschool classrooms in operation, two at Athol Community Elementary School and another classroom at the Royalston Community School.

Key Points of the Application Process:

Your child must be three years old by September 1st, 2022 to be eligible to apply as a student before starting for the 2022-2023 Preschool program.

To be considered for our program, your child must meet the criteria for eligibility. Peer students are students that are not receiving services through an IEP.

There is no school choice option for families living outside of the district for Preschool for the 2022-2023 school year.

Priority Students

Students who are already enrolled in Preschool from the previous year along with students on IEPs will be prioritized over other children. Families living within the boundaries of the district with siblings who currently attend or have attended ARRSD will be part of the priority group and considered for a specific location.

Parents of returning students will need to notify the district of their interest in their child's continued enrollment in Preschool by 06/03/2022

The district will determine the final enrollment location (i.e. ACES or RCS Preschool classrooms) for all students.

Other Applicants

Students who do not meet the criteria as a priority student will be placed into a lottery system for possible selection. Due to space and enrollment constraints, the Athol-Royalston Regional

School District's Preschool Program uses a lottery system for admitting students to their classes. For students that are not yet enrolled in the district, parents should review the available times for morning and afternoon sessions. Register your child on-line or in-person between May 16th, 2022 and July 21, 2022 before 11:59pm on the 21st to be eligible for the lottery.

Preschool Lottery

The Preschool lottery will occur on **July 26th, 2022**.

1. All new children pre-registering will be assigned a lottery number.
2. Once priority students are determined, remaining families seeking pre-registration will receive notification of the lottery process.
3. If a child is chosen through the lottery system to attend Preschool, the families will be notified of their proposed school assignment by **Jul 29, 2022**
4. Upon receiving written notification of the proposed preschool assignment, families **MUST** respond by **08/08/2022** selecting one of the following options:
 - a. Accept placement
 - b. Decline placement and be removed from list
 - c. Decline placement but remain on the waitlist

Families **MUST** return the proposed assignment letter within 10 days to the Early Childhood Coordinator indicating one of the selections above.

Students who receive Services Through an IEP

For students who are on IEPs, their needs and enrollment will be addressed in the Team meeting process.

Transportation

Please note, transportation is not provided by the district unless transportation is needed due to a child's disability that requires transportation support. This decision is part of the IEP multi-disciplinary Team process and is not made by a single individual.

Waitlist

After the Lottery, **ALL** families seeking enrollment will be contacted directly regarding their status. If your child was not selected, you will be added to a waitlist for any available openings, or parents can decline having their child placed on a waitlist.

Other factors:

Students may be admitted later in the year depending on space availability.

Preschool Assignment

Upon receipt of your written selection, the Early Childhood Coordinator will issue an official assignment letter.

If you have a questions about your child's placement, you may contact:

Name: Ms. Kimberly Leesha **Phone:** (978) 249-2406 **Email:** kleesha@arrsd.org

In August you will receive further notification from your child's school that will include their teacher assignment, location, and orientation dates.

If selected in the Lottery, please note the following documents will be required for registration:

- Parent Guardian Photo ID
- Proof of Residency (e.g. tax, electric, water, or gas bills, rent or lease agreements)
- Child's Certified Birth Certificate
- Child's Health and Insurance Information
- Child's Current IEP (if applicable)
- Legal Custody Letter (if applicable)

Preschool Program Schedule for RCS and ACES:

Preschool Program Days & Hours of Operation		
Days	Morning (AM)	Afternoon (PM)
Monday	8:45 - 11:15 a.m.	12:15 – 2:45 p.m.
Tuesday	8:45 - 11:15 a.m.	12:15 – 2:45 p.m.
Wednesday	8:45 - 11:15 a.m.	12:15 – 2:45 p.m.
Thursday	8:45 - 11:15 a.m.	12:15 – 2:45 p.m.
Friday		12:15 – 2:45 p.m.