



Universal Preschool FAQ

What is Universal Preschool (UPK)?

- Colorado's new Universal Preschool Program will offer families of children who are age 4 on or before October 1 to receive *up to* 15 free hours of preschool.
- UPK Colorado will provide families with Pre-K options that best fit the needs of your student and family. This can include different types of curriculum and settings so that families can ensure their child's needs are met in their program of choice.
- Every child in the year before they are eligible for Kindergarten is eligible for half-day (15 hours) of state-funded, voluntary preschool to support their preschool enrollment for the 2023-24 school year. Three - year olds with qualifying factors are eligible for part-time (10 hours) of preschool programming. Learn more about what's happening in early childhood education at the state here: www.cdec.colorado.gov
- Save the date: Universal Pre-K families applications will open January 17, 2023. Participation in a Pre-K environment that is rich in play, activities, learning, and positive social interactions help students transition to elementary school with a solid foundation.

How will UPK work at Apple Tree?

- UPK does not pay for hours of education that are spent in religious teachings. These hours must be paid for by the families.
- Apple Tree offers 4 Pre-K programs, all of which spend time each day focusing on Christian teachings.
- Apple Tree offers one program that is in session 12 hours per week (MWF), two programs that are offered 16 hours per week (M-Th, T-F), and one program that is in session 20 hours per week (M-F).
- Apple Tree is able to offer UPK dollars to families in either a 10 hour per week increment **or** a 15 hour per week increment.
- **So that Apple Tree can remain a school that can retain its mission statement of preparing God's children for their lifelong journey of learning through Christian values:**
 - **families who enroll their child in the 3-day Pre-K program will receive 10 hours of UPK per week and will be responsible for paying for 2 hours per week**

- **families enrolled in the 4-day programs will receive 15 hours from UPK and will be responsible for paying 1 hour per week,**
- **families enrolled in the 5-day program will receive 15 hours of UPK per week and will be responsible for paying for the additional 5 hours per week.**

Family UPK application process

- Starting at 8am on January 17, 2023, families will be able to submit an application to receive the UPK benefit. Within the application, families will be required to select and rank a list of their preferred preschool providers. This is a required step to attend any school that participates in the UPK program.
- Consideration will be given to school alumni and families with multiple children to ensure continuity of care.
- On February 15, 2023, each child will be matched to the family's preferred preschool provider.
- On February 16, 2023, providers can give feedback on their matches and, if needed, the child is rematched.
- On March 2, 2023, and every 2 weeks thereafter, matches will be sent to families to accept or decline.
- Click on this link: <https://cdec.colorado.gov/colorado-universal-preschool> and then click on *Family Login* to begin your UPK registration

To receive additional information as it is released, you can follow along on social media. Find Colorado Department of Early Childhood on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.