

TEACHING PRE-K FAQ

What is New York City's Pre-K for All?

Through the historic Pre-K for All initiative, New York City is leading the nation in making free, full-day, high-quality pre-K available to all of four-year-olds throughout all five boroughs. This initiative is propelled by great teachers.

In January of 2014, Mayor de Blasio's administration released its ambitious plan to implement universal pre-Kindergarten—to provide every four-year-old in New York City with access to free, full-day, high-quality pre-K by September of 2015. At that time, approximately 20,000 students were enrolled in full-day pre-K in the city. Today, the city offers free, full-day pre-K to over 70,000 four-year olds.

Pre-K for All teachers design dynamic classroom experiences that captivate New York City's youngest learners and instill the critical vocabulary, oral language and problem-solving skills they need to flourish in kindergarten and beyond. Every day, teachers are sparking wonder and igniting learning in our children. Pre-K for All prepares children with stronger math and reading skills as they enter elementary school and a better chance at success in life. Studies show that children enrolled in full-day pre-K are better prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

What are the benefits of teaching Pre-K for All?

Teaching pre-K gives educators the opportunity to provide the critical foundation of skills, knowledge, and approaches to learning needed for students to be ready for school and, ultimately, college and careers. Pre-K education helps students develop critical vocabulary, oral language, and problem-solving skills, establishes strong partnerships with families, and raises academic success across all income and racial groups. This investment in our youngest learners is an investment in the future of New York City.

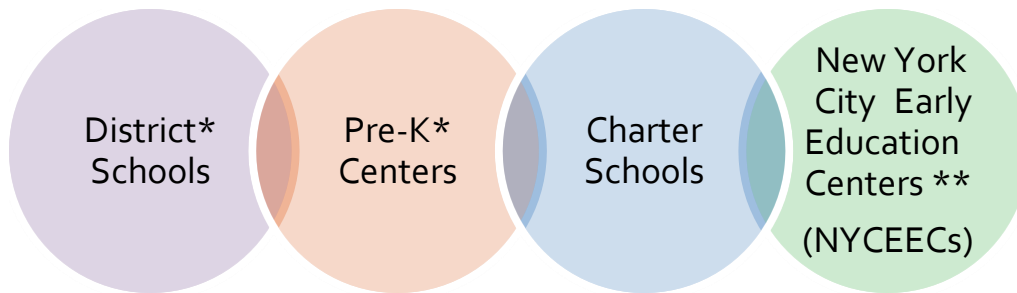
What are the goals of Pre-K for All?

Full-day Pre-K for All is the cornerstone of the Mayor and NYC Department of Education Chancellor's plan to transform public education in New York City.

The Mayor's Office, the NYC Department of Education, and other City agencies are committed to ensuring that all Pre-K for All programs offer safe and supportive classrooms, high quality teachers, and research-based curricula that facilitate developmentally appropriate instruction.

What are the different settings I can teach Pre-K for All in NYC?

Each of New York City's pre-K teachers works in one of four settings:



*** District Pre-K Programs**

District School pre-K programs are offered at approximately 600 public elementary schools across the City. These classes are fully integrated into their school community and operate similarly to other grades in the building. Pre-K for All teachers in District pre-K programs are employees of the City of New York (DOE). Pre-K for All teachers in District pre-K programs must have NY State teaching certification in early childhood.

Pre-K Centers

A NYC DOE Pre-K Center is a district operated program that serves only pre-K students and is staffed by NYC DOE personnel. Pre-K Centers are located either in new buildings that are designed specifically to serve pre-K classes or existing district school buildings where space will meet the needs of each pre-K class. Pre-K for All teachers in District pre-K programs are employees of the City of New York (DOE). Pre-K for All teachers in District pre-K programs must have NY State teaching certification in early childhood.

To find a District pre-K program near you, [click here](#) to view all programs in each borough.

****New York City Early Education Centers**

NYC Early Education Centers (NYCEECs) are independent, community-based organizations that partner with the NYC Department of Education to provide free full-day high quality pre-K. There are over 1,200 NYCEECs meeting the diverse needs of families and learners throughout all five boroughs. NYCEECs are run by non-profits, community-based organizations, nursery schools, day care centers, private-pay programs or faith-based organizations. Calendar year, salaries, and benefits offered will vary from site to site. Each NYCEEC employs its own teachers; they are not employees of the City of New York (DOE). NYCEEC teachers must possess a Bachelor's degree, have completed some early childhood education coursework; OR have significant experience working in early childhood education (with children under 6), and commit to obtain a NY State early childhood teacher certification within three years of hire.

NYCEECs are held to the same expectations as District Schools and Pre-K Centers. NYCEEC Pre-K for All teachers receive the same professional development and support from the Division of Early Childhood as DOE Pre-K for All teachers.

For the past three years, the large majority of pre-K teacher hires occurred in NYCEEC settings. ***By expressing interest in NYCEEC positions on your application, you will vastly increase the likelihood of finding a pre-K teaching position.*** Interested teachers applying through the certified teacher application have the opportunity to make their information available to all hiring NYCEECs.

To find out which NYCEECs offer Pre-K for All near you, [click here](#).

Why should I consider teaching pre-K in a NYCEEC?

Teaching pre-K in a NYCEEC is a wonderful opportunity to gain vital experience, become an expert at classroom management, and build upon your existing skills as an early childhood educator.

- **Embedded in their community.** Teachers have the opportunity to develop close relationships with families and community.
- **Offer flexibility and mission-driven programming.** They have a strong early childhood focus, tailoring their services to early childhood aged students.
- **Typically small, close knit environment** affords teachers an opportunity to collaborate, brainstorm, learn and grow as a team.
- Provide opportunities for **professional development and leadership.**
- There are many different types of NYCEECs, allowing candidates to **tailor the job search** to find the right fit.

Do all NYCEECs operate year-round? Do they follow the DOE school year calendar?

Since NYCEECs are independent organizations, school calendars in place at NYCEECs will vary from site to site. Some NYCEECs may follow the district calendar exactly while others may tailor their calendar to fit the needs of their communities by having different observances and holidays or operate on a year-round calendar. Candidates are encouraged to have a transparent discussion about school day and school year calendars with directors or hiring representatives before accepting a position.

Are my years of service in a NYCEEC honored if I transition into a DOE position?

Experience as the full-time lead teacher in a NYCEEC will count towards a salary differential if you transition to teaching in a district public school in the future.

I am currently a NYCDOE teacher. How do I find and apply for pre-K positions?

Thank you for your interest in teaching pre-K! If you are interested in applying for pre-K positions in NYC public schools or Pre-K Centers, you may log in to the Open Market Transfer system and search for open positions at the pre-K level.

If you are interested in applying for pre-K positions at a NYCEEC, please contact our office to discuss your next steps and to learn of opportunities available near you. You may reach us at teachnycprek@schools.nyc.gov or at (718) 935-4627.

I am currently a NYCDOE teacher/paraprofessional. If I accept a position at a NYCEEC, do I need to resign or request a leave from my current position?

Yes, if you are a current DOE teacher or paraprofessional, you would need to request a non-medical leave of absence in order to accept a position at a NYCEEC. For more information on non-medical leaves of absence and the application process, please visit [the DOE's Human Resources webpage on non-medical leaves](#).

I've applied for a Pre-K for All teacher position and my application was screened into the system. What now?

Congratulations! Now that your application is in our system, there are 3 important things that will happen in order for you to find the right position.

- 1) Check the system through which you applied (New Teacher Finder for certified candidates and Early Childhood Teacher Finder for study plan candidates) to look at current pre-K vacancies. You will have an opportunity to express interest in a position and/or find contact information for the hiring manager. We encourage you to reach out to NYCEECs or schools that have openings! Learn more about site locations on our [Pre-K Finder Map](#).
- 2) Attend our hiring events! We will have both NYCEEC and district networking events in the spring and summer. Look out for email invitations to those events! This is a great way to meet many hiring managers at one time. Make sure to bring copies of your resume, wear professional dress, and be ready for informal interview-like conversation.
- 3) Be prepared for calls and emails from hiring managers! Hiring managers are actively checking our systems and asking the Teach NYC Pre-K team for available candidates. They will very often reach out to applicants via phone and/or email to request an interview.

How do I make my information available to NYCEECs?

Changing the way that you answer certain questions on your application will change which directors and hiring managers are able to view your information and what available positions you are able to see online. For the past three years, the large majority of pre-K teacher hires occurred in NYCEEC settings. By expressing interest in NYCEEC positions on your application, you will vastly increase the likelihood of finding a pre-K teaching position. On your application, there are several questions regarding your interest in teaching pre-K. In your existing teacher application, you will want to edit the Employment Preferences section to ensure that you are selecting "Early Childhood" for one of your top grade preferences AND that you are clicking the box that says "Yes" to the questions "Would you like your application made available to NYCEEC hiring managers looking for early childhood educators?"

Learn more about updating your profile to maximize your job search by listening to our webinar, [Navigating the New Teacher Finder & the Early Childhood Teacher Finder](#).

What is a study plan candidate?

Study plan candidates are not yet certified teachers that are eligible to work in our NYCEECs as a lead teacher if they possess a Bachelor's degree and have completed some early childhood education coursework; OR have significant experience working in early childhood education (with children under 6). Upon hire, study plan candidates must also commit to earning their NY State early childhood education certification within 3 years. We encourage candidates and NYCEECs to work together to develop an appropriate and individualized plan.