

# Shelby County First Class Pre-K Registration and Selection Protocols



Shelby County Schools strongly supports the importance of quality early childhood education. We are pleased to have six First Class Pre-K programs in our school district which offer a challenging, developmentally appropriate curriculum and experience for the preschool students who attend.

## **Admission to a First Class Pre-K Classroom**

The Shelby County Schools system adheres to the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education's (DECE) First Class Pre-K pre-registration requirements:

<https://children.alabama.gov/>

The DECE allows school systems to restrict eligibility according to the adopted Board of Education residency and attendance policies. Therefore, First Class Pre-K candidates must comply with the Shelby County Board of Education Policy 6.1.2 Admission to Schools:

"a. Resident Students --- School-aged children who reside within Shelby County, Alabama and not within the limits of a city school system, may be admitted to Shelby County Schools. The Board of Education shall admit students to the schools of the school district on an individual basis under such rules and regulations as the Board may prescribe. The Board of Education has established school attendance zones. Students may attend school in the zone in which they reside with a parent or legal guardian, where the guardian has been appointed for reasons other than to attend school in Shelby County."

When drawing names of preschoolers whose parents have pre-registered them for a First Class Pre-K classroom, priority will be given in this order:

1. Children who reside within the school zone
2. Children who reside within Shelby County

## **Parent/Guardian Notification about On-line Pre-Registration Applications and Lottery**

Pre-register windows typically begin mid-January. Lottery drawings are held in March. Each school's window for pre-registration is unique so check school websites for details.

First Class Pre-K school principals use a variety of ways to notify families about how to pre-register their child for a place on each program's lottery waiting list:

- Flyers in English and Spanish posted on each school's website
- Listserv emails
- Requests that other schools in their zone advertise pre-registration
- Written flyers that are sent home with students
- Flyers posted in area day cares and churches

## **Tuition**

A grant from the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (DECE) provides partial funding for these programs. The DECE allows school districts to charge parents a fee for this Pre-K program. Shelby County Schools began charging a nominal fee, beginning the 2019-2020 school year. The fee is based on a child's free and reduced lunch status as follows:

- Free lunch: No fee
- Reduced lunch: \$40.00/month
- All others: \$60.00/month

A child's participation in a First Class Pre-K program is not dependent on his/her parents' ability to pay tuition. All children who have enrolled in the program will fully participate in it, regardless of their parents' ability to pay the fee.

