

Rhea County Schools Voluntary Pre-K FAQ



Why is Pre-K important?

According to the Tennessee Department of Education, the human brain develops more rapidly between birth and age five than during any other subsequent period. The first five years of life are a time of enormous social-emotional, physical and cognitive growth. These early years provide a window of opportunity to set either a sturdy or fragile stage for what follows. A child's ability to be attentive, focused and follow directions emerges in the early years. Structured early learning fosters these abilities for later success in school and life.

Who is eligible for Rhea County Pre-K?

Children who turn **4 years old** on or before **August 15** who meet the criteria for economically disadvantaged per Income Eligible Application and Income Guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Where are Pre-K classes located?

Pre-K classes are located at Graysville Elementary School, Rhea Central Elementary School, and Spring City Elementary School.

What documents are needed for registration?

Application to determine income eligibility for the Voluntary Pre-K Program

Rhea County Department of Education application for Voluntary Pre-K

Copy of child's Birth Certificate

Copy of child's Social Security Card

TN School Immunization Certificate with state seal

Proof of Residency in Rhea County (utility statements)

Proof of Income (check stubs, W-2 forms, tax returns, food stamp number)

Custody Papers (if applicable)

What is the Pre-K schedule?

Pre-K follows the same calendar as all other Rhea County Schools. The hours for Pre-K are daily from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Children may participate in the Rhea County School Nutrition Program and eat breakfast and lunch at school.

What will my child learn?

To align with the K-12 Tennessee Academic Standards recently adopted by the State Board of Education, the Office of Early Learning has revised the Tennessee Early Childhood Education Early Learning Developmental Standards (TN-ELDS) for four-year-olds. The Tennessee Early Childhood Standards include Speech and Language Development, Early Literacy, Math and Science, Social Studies, Creative Arts, Social and Emotional Development, and Physical Development. For more information about the TN-ELDS for four year olds visit our web page at:

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/standards/tnelds/std_tnelds_4yo_2018.pdf

What is the attendance policy for Pre-K?

Attendance is a key factor in student achievement, therefore, the Rhea County Board of Education adopted an attendance policy to express that students are expected to be present at school when it is in session. Information about excused and unexcused absences can be found under Descriptor 6.2011 of the Rhea County Board of Education Policy Manual.