

# Universal Preschool (UPK) Colorado Program

## New Choice Process for ECE

### Key Dates

- **Friday, January 13 - Tuesday, February 14 at 4:00 p.m.** - Families of ECE students must complete the [DPS SchoolChoice application](#).
- **Tuesday, January 17 - Tuesday, February 14** - Families of ECE students must complete the [UPK Colorado application](#).
- Families **must complete both applications** to apply to a DPS ECE program. [Click here](#) for more details on the application process.
- Families are encouraged to **apply early** to best navigate this new process. [Click here](#) for more information on Colorado's new UPK program.

The SchoolChoice process for ECE families will be much different than in previous years due to Colorado voters passing [Proposition EE](#) in 2020 which Governor Polis signed into law in April 2022. Along with other Colorado school districts, DPS is working with the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) to continue expanding its Early Childhood Education program by rolling out a new enrollment process for [Universal Preschool \(UPK\) Colorado](#). This new change will provide tuition support for families.

### What does this mean for DPS students?

- UPK Colorado ensures that every child in the year before they are eligible for kindergarten is eligible for half-day (minimum 15 hours per week) state-funded, voluntary preschool, beginning in the 2023-24 school year *provided they complete the UPK application and attend a school/program that is a participating provider (like DPS)*.
- Four-year-olds with [qualifying factors](#) are eligible for *additional hours* of tuition free preschool.
- Three-year-olds with [qualifying factors](#) are eligible for *at least part-time* (10 hours per week) preschool programming.

### What does this mean for DPS Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs?

- DPS ECE programs will now be able to serve 20 students per classroom, instead of the previous limit of 16 students.
  - This does not mean that all classrooms will have 20 students, however it offers increased flexibility to accommodate student needs.
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## Where can I find more information?

We are committed to sharing information with stakeholders as soon as we are aware. Please continue to check the [Universal Preschool \(UPK\) Colorado webpage](#) and the [DPS UPK landing page](#) for the latest updates. In addition, please refer to these resources:

- [FAQ](#)
- [Letter to Families](#)
- **If families have questions please reach out to the Colorado Dep. of Early Childhood at (800)-799-5876, [cdec\\_communications@state.co.us](mailto:cdec_communications@state.co.us)**

## What is the application process for families?

Click [here](#) for a letter to families outlining this process.

Please take the following steps to apply to a DPS ECE program.

