ELIGIBILITY

How do I know if my child is eligible for the non-qualifying tuition-based PreK lottery?

1. Child must be 4-years-old on or before September 1st of the school year in which you are applying.
2. Live within the Northwest ISD boundaries
3. Does not qualify for the free, state PreK program.

If my child attends tuition-based PreK at another elementary school than we are zoned, does this mean they can attend Kindergarten at that campus?

Attending PreK at a campus other than the zoned elementary school does not automatically result in the student attending the PreK campus for future grades. Parents must complete a transfer request during designated times if interested in attending a campus other than the one they are zoned. Approval of campus transfers must meet the criteria established in board policy.

http://www.nisdtx.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=232201&pageId=2754373

REGISTRATION

When is registration?

PreK tuition-based lottery applications will be available from February 1st through March 9th, 2018.

The Lottery will be held for non-qualifying tuition based PreK on March 21, 2018. Once the lottery is drawn students must be registered by April 27th in order to hold their place for the fall.

How will the lottery be assigned? How will a waitlist be generated?

Tuition-based students can only be enrolled into an NISD PreK program once all qualifying, state-funded students have enrolled. Tuition based spots will initially be a finite number of slots made available at each campus with a tuition-based program. After all tuition positions have been filled through the lottery, an official, tuition-based waiting list will be developed. Should a tuition spot become available as the year progresses, parents will be contacted to determine if they are interested in acquiring that spot.

If my child is selected for placement through the lottery, how long do I have to complete my child’s registration?

Parents will be notified within 48 hours of the lottery drawing, March 21, 2018, of their position. Online enrollment will begin in mid-April. Online registration and campus document review must be completed by April 27, 2018. If registration is not completed within the timeline, the spot will be forfeited to the next person on the waiting list.

Once I have registered for the lottery, how long will it be before I receive a number and verification that my application has been received?

Once the lottery application timeline has been ended, an e-mail will be generated verifying it has been received and assigning a lottery number based on registration order.
TUITION
What is the cost associated with NISD tuition-based PreK?
Annual Tuition for the PreK program is $3,778 divided into 10 monthly payments of $377.80 starting in August.

What is the tuition payment process?
NISD utilizes online payment processing
Tuition is due by the 15th of each month
Online payments and checks are accepted.
Checks should be sent to:
PreK - Student Services
Northwest ISD
PO Box 77070
Fort Worth, Texas 76177-0070
Cash will not be accepted at this time.
Receipts will be generated from your online payment for your records

What will happen if I am late paying the tuition for PreK?
Monthly tuition is due the 15th day of the month. Payments received after the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the 15th will be charged a $20.00 late payment fee.

I am an NISD employee. Does this make my child exempt from paying the tuition if my child does not qualify for free PreK?
NISD employees’ children who do not meet qualifying PreK eligibility requirements are not exempt from paying the tuition fee. PreK in the state of Texas is for qualifying students. NISD does not receive funding for non-qualified students, therefore all non-qualifying students must pay tuition.

How do I claim the tuition payment on my taxes?
Your online payment will provide receipt. Parents should keep these records as proof of childcare claims and consult your CPA as NISD does not provide a separate document to use for your taxes.

Can a family switch from tuition-based to state-funded PreK if their circumstances change during the school year?
Yes, if the family circumstances change during the school year that results in the family qualifying for the state funded Pre-Kindergarten they will need to speak with the school office, fill out a Pre-Kindergarten application and provide documentation that they now qualify under the state guidelines. Previously paid tuition is not refunded.

ATTENDANCE
How will attendance requirements affect the Tuition-Based Program?
Students enrolled in PreK are required to attend school and are subject to compulsory attendance requirements.

Failure to comply with compulsory attendance will generate an investigation and reporting of violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent without permission from school; from any class; from required special programs will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

http://www.nisdtx.org/departments/student_services/student_handbook_and_code_of_conduct/

TRANSPORTATION
Is transportation provided for PreK students?
Yes! Transportation will be provided in accordance with current NISD transportation policy CNA(LEGAL). Transportation will be provided morning, midday (PreK, PPCD), and after school for “Regular eligible students”

“Regular eligible student” means a student who resides two or more miles from the student’s campus of regular attendance, measured along the shortest route that may be traveled on public roads, and who is not classified as a student eligible for special education services. Education Code 42.155(b)(1)

http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/391?filter=CNA
If you elect to attend a PreK campus other than the campus in your attendance boundary, you will be required to provide transportation for your child. Licensed childcare facilities may be the pick-up and drop off location for students who meet the “regular eligible student” requirements to receive transportation. The daycare must also be within the feeder pattern for the attended PreK and within district boundaries.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE
Will extended care services be available for PreK students?
AlphaBest as a district approved provider offering after-school childcare at 16 of 17 elementary campuses. AlphaBest will have the capacity to provide afternoon extended care for 4-year-old students. Registration for extended care through AlphaBest is a separate registration and is not part of NISD PreK registration and tuition.
http://www.alphabest.org/northwest/

PROGRAM INFORMATION
What schedule will the PreK Tuition-Based program follow?
The NISD PreK Tuition-Based will be a half day program and will follow the district’s calendar. Half day is either a morning 7:40 am - 10:50 am or afternoon session from 11:50 am - 3:00 pm. NISD attendance policies will be in effect.

Will we be required to provide student school supplies?
Yes. A school supply list will be made available to each family by the school in which they are enrolling.

What curriculum is used in the PreK Tuition-Based Program?
The PreK guidelines from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) are the core of the PreK curriculum. They are aligned with the Kindergarten Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) to assure that students have the developmental and academic skills to be successful in Kindergarten. These guidelines offer teachers detailed learning expectations across ten multiple skill domains that should be demonstrated by children by the end of the PreK year. Skill domains include: language and communication, social/emotional development, emergent literacy reading, emergent literacy writing, mathematics, science, social studies, fine arts physical development and health and technology. Scholastic Big Day is the state adopted curriculum for PreK in NISD.

Is breakfast/lunch available for purchase?
Yes. The morning class has the opportunity for breakfast beginning at the allotted time on each campus until the bell rings to begin the day. Lunch is built into the class schedule for morning and afternoon. Breakfast and lunch is not included in tuition fees.

What will the class size be?
The maximum size is 22 students. The ratio is 1:11 (1 adult: 11 students).

How many teachers will be in the class and what are their qualifications/education?
There will be one certified teacher and one trained teacher assistant in each classroom.

If you have additional questions about PreK, you can direct them to Deanne Colley, Early Childhood Education Coordinator at dcolley@nisdtx.org or 817-215-0198