

Durham PreK RFA Q&A

1. If I'm in the TA Pipeline, do I still have to apply to be a Durham PreK site through the Durham PreK RFA?

Yes. All programs, including TA Pipeline programs, must apply through the Durham PreK RFA to be selected as a Durham PreK site.

2. What is the difference between the Durham PreK TA Pipeline and becoming a Durham PreK site?

The goal of the Durham PreK TA Pipeline is to support programs as they work to meet higher Durham PreK standards through weekly TA services. When a Durham PreK TA Pipeline program feels ready, they may apply to become a Durham PreK site through the Durham PreK RFA process.

Durham PreK sites are those programs that have been identified as meeting the Durham PreK standards through the RFA process. Once selected to be a Durham PreK site, those programs must follow all Durham PreK Standards and Policies

3. If I choose not to apply to be a Durham PreK site, for any reason, will I be kicked out of the TA Pipeline?

If a Durham PreK TA Pipeline program does NOT feel ready to apply to become a Durham PreK site, that is okay; they can decide NOT to apply.

Whether a TA Pipeline program applies or not, programs currently participating in the Durham PreK TA Pipeline will continue to receive TA services.

4. Does a program have to meet the salary standard indicated in the application at the time of submission?

Programs do not need to meet the salary standard indicated in the application during the application process. If selected to become a Durham PreK site, programs will need to meet the salary standard once they sign their contract.

5. NC Pre-K sites are able to combine the amount paid for benefits and salary in order to meet the compensation standard. Is this the case for Durham PreK?

The Durham PreK compensation standard follows DPS salary schedule and 2018-2019 DPS traditional calendar. It includes payment for 215 days including teacher workdays, holidays and 10 mandatory annual leave days during the holiday break and spring break. Any other benefits would be in addition to the DPS salary and cannot be counted as part of the salary. Durham PreK encourages programs to provide benefits comparable to DPS as best as they can in addition to the DPS salary.

If a program is selected, they will follow this salary schedule and calendar once the contract is signed.

6. What is the likelihood that one site might have multiple classrooms chosen as finalists?

While this is not outside the realm of possibility, we believe the winter 2019 finalists will include 5 classrooms representing 5 different centers. Please note that future RFA rounds may allow for this situation, as a winter 2019 finalist could apply for another classroom during future RFA rounds and be selected as a finalist again.

7. If our center is not currently a NC Pre-K program but is selected as a finalist, what will we do with our current 4-year olds? What would prevent a child from qualifying for Durham PreK classroom?

If your center is not currently a NC Pre-K program, please complete and submit the NC Pre-K application in addition to the Durham PreK Application Addendum, as indicated in our Durham PreK RFA Information Letter (on our website).

All of your current 4-year olds are eligible to apply to be part of the Durham PreK classroom if selected as a finalist. The respective family income levels will determine the cost to the families.

8. Is there a minimum/maximum number of students required per classroom?

Durham PreK will cover up to 18 students per classroom (reimbursement rate is per child); there is no minimum. If you are selected as a finalist and have a classroom with less than 18 students but have room for more in that classroom, we will use the current waitlist to assist you with filling spaces up to 18 students per classroom.

9. If our center is selected as a winter 2019 semi-finalist, does that automatically mean we will be a finalist in the next RFA round?

While qualifying as a winter 2019 semi-finalist does not automatically mean you will be a finalist in the next RFA round, we do believe, at this time, that we will hold on to the applications of those not selected as winter 2019 sites and may consider them during future RFA rounds.

It is our goal to limit the amount of work placed on providers and we will do our best to have a definite answer on this as soon as possible. We encourage all applicants to save their application materials in case there is a need to re-apply for future RFA rounds.

Please note, if there are changes to the NC Pre-K application and/or Durham PreK Application Addendum prior to the next RFA rounds, those seeking reconsideration may have to update their applications in some way.

If a site is selected as one of the 5 classroom finalists, their classroom will continue as a Durham PreK classroom unless major changes in program quality and standards occurs.

10. Will classroom quality be monitored monthly?

Yes, for selected classrooms TA will be initiated resulting in a minimum of once-a-week coaching; the intensity will vary based on classroom needs. We will do our best to coordinate with others that may be monitoring quality to minimize classroom interruptions.

11. If my center does not currently meet the Durham PreK staff or curriculum requirements, how should we go about indicating that we are willing and able to if selected as a finalist?

Please feel free to be transparent about your current situation and future capabilities. You can share your intent to meet the higher standards and provide examples of how you would go about doing so or provide examples of how you have met these standards in the past.

12. Is salary a part of the reimbursement?

Yes, at this time. The Governance Committee is very dedicated to addressing salary issues, including maintenance. We plan to address the need for additional support in upcoming Governance Committee meetings.

13. How can families learn about Durham PreK and apply?

Currently, we are not recruiting families. This will be a joint effort; we will partner with NC Pre-K. A Durham PreK website will be created in the near future and a Durham PreK database is in the works. It is our hope that both of these resources will assist with general marketing and the application process.

14. Will providers receive screening information in a timely manner, ideally prior to a child's start date?

We will take this feedback into consideration as we finalize the desired application process cycle. We greatly understand the benefits of having screening information as early as possible.

Additionally, DPS will conduct screening training for DPfC and CCSA staff. We also hope to add more screening dates and times.

Please note, the Governance Committee is not just addressing higher provider standards; it is also holding the contract managers to a higher standard. While we will make every effort to get things right, some things will take longer than others. We greatly appreciate your patience and welcome your feedback throughout this process.

15. Are providers represented on Governance Committee? If so, who are the representatives?

We currently have 2 provider representatives on the Governance Committee. Katharine Smith and Darnella Warthen were recommended and approved by the county commissioners, outside agencies and community members.

We look forward to hosting a drop-in where providers can meet with Katharine Smith and/or Darnella Warthen to share comments, concerns, general feedback and questions that you feel the Governance Committee needs to consider.

All providers are welcomed to email comments, concerns, general feedback and questions to Durham PreK (durhamprek@childcareservices.org).

16. Will Durham PreK follow the NC Pre-K attendance policy? Can you explain the NC Pre-K attendance policy?

Durham PreK will follow the NC Pre-K attendance policy that can be found in the [NC Pre-K Program Fiscal and Contract Manual](#).

If finalists are already NC Pre-K programs, to coordinate this process in a way that allows you to submit your attendance as you always have; we will then get that information from DPfC. However, these details are still being discussed. We will make it priority to address this as soon as possible.

While it will not be ready until 2019-2020, we plan to address parent responsibilities and requirements, including attendance.

17. Given the Durham PreK salary requirements, how will centers maintain salaries in the event of student disenrollment?

Early communication regarding attendance issues and disenrollment will be crucial; we are unable to assist with these situations until we are properly informed of your needs. We hope to employ family engagement coordinators to check-in periodically and help remedy these kind of situations.

Exit paperwork must be completed to document student disenrollment. Classroom spaces will then be filled using the current waitlist. While all effort will be made to fill classroom spaces as quickly as possible, the process may take some time.

The Governance Committee will continue to review Durham PreK salary requirements, attendance policies, provider reimbursement policies and how to support providers.

18. Will Durham PreK fund wrap care?

No, like NC Pre-K, Durham PreK will not fund wrap care at this time. We do hope to discuss this topic during future Governance Committee meetings.

For the time being, please keep in mind that Durham PreK classrooms will operate from 9:00am - 3:30pm on the DPS traditional calendar schedule.

19. Does the Durham PreK program include professional development?

Yes, Durham PreK will include professional development. We hope to coordinate professional development with NC Pre-K to minimize pulling teachers away from their classrooms.