

Unified School District of De Pere

4-Year-Old Kindergarten (4K)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is 4-year-old Kindergarten?

4K is a voluntary program for children who will be four years old by September 1. The program is regulated by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Classrooms are held in both public school and community sites.

2. Who is eligible to enroll in four-year-old kindergarten?

The child must be a legal resident of the Unified School District of De Pere and must be four years old on or before September 1, 2013. However, a child from another district may qualify for 4K through open enrollment to the district. There are no student ability or family income criteria.

3. Do families have a tuition cost for 4K? What will I have to pay for during the year?

There is no tuition fee for the 4 year old kindergarten program, regardless of whether the program a child attends is located in a community based setting or a school building. There will be a minimal school fee of approximately \$15.00.

4. Where will four-year-old kindergarten be held?

- KinderCare Learning Center (1553 Arcadian Lane, De Pere)
- Step Ahead Child Care Center (1550 Silverstone Trail, De Pere)
- Tiny Town Child Care Center (2563 Developmental Drive, Green Bay)
- De Pere High School Learning Lab (1700 Chicago Street, De Pere)
- CESA #7 Head Start (Based on Eligibility) (1250 Swan Road, De Pere)

Elementary School Site/s to be determined based on enrollment



5. What will be the experience of children in four-year-old kindergarten?

High quality early learning experiences for young children capitalize on their natural curiosity. 4K curriculum activities for four year olds will involve lots of opportunities for discovery, problem solving, and social interacts with age mates and adults. Language rich environments will provide a solid foundation for future learning.

6. What curriculum is used?

The Unified School District of De Pere has developed a curriculum aligned to the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards and the Common Core State Standards. All community sites will be required to use the same curriculum.

7. What will class sizes look like?

There are no state regulations directing the teacher-child ratio for 4K. Class size is a local policy determined by the school board. The Unified School District of De Pere has established class size ratios of no more than 13 students to one teacher or 20 students to one teacher and one instructional aide.

8. Can a child attend 2 different sessions of 4K? No, a child cannot attend both am and pm sessions of 4K.

9. Will parent-teacher conferences be offered?

Yes, parents can expect a minimum of one parent-teacher conference per school year similar to the K-12 conferences in the fall. Independent site schedules may vary.

10. How is my child's progress documented/shared?

In addition to parent-teacher conferences described above, a progress report will be completed at regular intervals during the school year.

11. What do I do if my child currently attends child care and I want them to attend 4K? Can I pick the site my child attends? If a child currently attends a child care site that has a Unified School District of De Pere 4K program and parents would like their child to attend that site they may, dependent on available space. Parents will be responsible for transportation to and from the site, if it is outside of the student's attendance area.

12. What happens if there is a waiting list for the center I choose?

Parents will be given a list of sites located within an attendance area to choose from and will be asked to indicate more than one preferred location. Should a center not have the space to enroll all students who are interested in attending, the district will assign another site based on: 1) parent preference and 2) attendance area.

13. What if I prefer a specific location?

Parents can indicate preferences, and in most cases families will be able to attend the site of choice, but District Administrators will have the final authority on the placement of students. Any child currently enrolled in preschool/childcare at a particular center will automatically be given first priority for that location. The center's administrator will verify these requests. All preferences will be honored until the classes available at the sites are filled. If there are more requests for a location than there are spaces available, decisions will be made by district staff and the sites.

14. Is before or after care offered?

Many sites will offer care before and/or after 4K sessions. Families may enroll their child in wrap around care at a community based 4K site (which is a separate process than 4K registration), knowing that they will be responsible for any charges for care outside the 4K program.

15. What are the hours of the program?

A morning session or an afternoon session will be made available. Specific start and end times will be determined once transportation logistics are finalized. Each session will be three (3) hours and five (5) minutes.

16. What if I prefer morning or afternoon classes?

All time preferences will be honored until classes reach capacity, at which time District Administrators will have the final authority on placement of students.

17. What will the schedule of the four-year-old kindergarten classes look like?

Four-year-old kindergarten classes will be Monday through Thursday, with the addition of 1-3 Friday's based on the District calendar. Morning and afternoon classes will run approximately three hours each. In the event that these times need to be adjusted, all changes will be made by mutual agreement between the School District and the preschool/childcare center and will be communicated with parents/legal guardians as necessary.

18. Will bus transportation be provided?

Bus transportation will be provided, as District policy dictates. To qualify the family must live at least 2 miles from the designated site. Parents/legal guardians are encouraged to take their children to the location rather than have them transported by bus. Children who receive bus transportation will ride regular routes with other kindergarten through 12th grade students to start the day, but will ride special routes at the end of the morning session.

19. When and how do I register my child for four-year-old kindergarten?

4K registration will be held on Monday, February 25, 2013 from 6:00 – 7:30 PM at De Pere High School in the auditorium, 1700 Chicago Street, De Pere. (*Please enter through the main door.*) After this date, parents can register with the District Registrar in the District Offices, located on the west side of De Pere High School. ***You must bring your child's immunization record and birth certificate** to register.

20. When will the placement be announced?

Sites will send letters or call confirming your child's placement by the last week in May. Prior to that, you may receive a phone call if it is difficult to meet your requests for placement.

21. Must children be toilet trained to participate?

Children are not required to be toilet trained to participate in the program.

22. What qualifications are required of the teachers?

Teacher of 4K students must hold a prekindergarten or kindergarten Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction license. Ongoing professional development and collaboration activities will be in place to support 4K teachers, bridge transitions with 4K and 5K teachers, ensuring high quality learning environments and continuous program improvement.

Other Questions?

Please consult the district's website or contact Kari Shaw at 920-983-9174 ext. 1-4116