

Now Accepting Applications for 2024-2025 Preschool



Families of three and four year olds in Amherst County have opportunities to apply and be considered for three types of preschool programs. Each program is described below.

Program 1: Amherst County Public Schools Smart Start Programs: ACPS Smart Start programs are free based on eligibility requirements; full-day preschool programs that meet all Virginia State Standards for preschool education for your 4-year-old. Children must be 4 on or before September 30, 2024. There is no cost for breakfast, lunch, and snack. All school supplies are provided. Transportation is available. Classes are located at Amherst Elementary School, Central Elementary School, and Madison Heights Elementary School.

Program 2: Head Start: Lyn-CAG Head Start works together with Amherst County Public Schools. The programs they provide are free based on eligibility requirements; full-day preschool programs that meet the National Head Start Performance Standards and are licensed by the Virginia Department of Education. These classes are available for eligible 3 and 4-year-old children. There is no cost for breakfast, lunch, and snacks. All school supplies are provided. Parents must bring their children and sign in and out of the program daily. Drop off is from 7:30 am -8:00 am and pick up is at 2:30 pm. Head Start locations are at Amherst Elementary School and Madison Heights Elementary School.

Program 3: Mixed Delivery: Three and four year olds may also be eligible for a free Mixed Delivery Pre-K which is a grant-funded program through VA Ready Regions. This is managed by Bright Beginnings Central Virginia and places children in preschool programs in private childcare centers located within Amherst County. A limited number of slots are available to eligible families. Before and after care options may be available. Transportation is not provided.



How to Apply

For online applications, please visit:

<https://bit.ly/3samkvf>

For in-person applications, please visit one of the following locations:



- **ACPS School Administration Office**
Monday-Friday from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Address: 153 Washington Street, Amherst, VA 24521
Phone: 434-946-9341
- **Central Elementary School**
March 19, 2024 from 2:00 -3:30 p.m. and 4:00-7:00 pm
- **Madison Heights Elementary School**
March 26, 2024 from 2:00 -3:30 p.m. and 4:00-7:00 pm

Income and proof of residency verification must be completed in-person within a week of submitting the application. You will need to provide the following:

- Proof of residency (utility bill or lease agreement)
- Most recent tax return, W-2 forms, or pay stubs for all parents/legal guardians of the child living in the household

Note: Verification of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs), or SSI (Supplemental Security Income) can also be provided instead of tax returns, W-2 forms, or pay stubs.

Parents will be notified of acceptance by May, 2024 for applications received between February-May 2024. Applications submitted after May 2024 will be notified once the application has been processed.