Clinton Glen Gardner School District

Preschool Expansion Aid Lottery Process

(2025-2026)

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Overview

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Early Childhood Program

Lifelong Learning Starts Here

CLINTON GLEN GARDNER SCHOOL DISTRICT

The mission of the Clinton Glen Gardner School District Early Childhood Program is to help children develop a love of learning through play, foster a commitment to explore and value differences, build a foundation for independence, cultivate social and emotional development, and enable academic growth. The program is to provide high quality, early childhood education through a research based, play based approach. The vision is to prepare our young learners to be lifelong learners.

Key Terms

Preschool Expansion Aid

Key Terms:

- PEA: Preschool Expansion Aid
- Universe: State defined total population of 3 & 4 year olds in a district based on demographic trends
- Eligibility Date: Birthday as of October 1st
- Income Eligible: Students entitled to free and reduced lunch as defined by the USDA, or directly certified through the NJ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Preschool Locations

Clinton Public School
10 School Street
Clinton, New Jersey 08809
908-735-8512
www.cpsnj.org

YMCA of Annandale
410 Route 22 West
Annandale, NJ 08801
(908-236-0055 x 4624
www.ymcabhc.org

In order to accommodate our growing preschool population, we have preschool programs in two sites. Two classrooms are located at Clinton Public School and one classroom is located at the YMCA of Annandale. Both programs are aligned to Early Learning Standards and utilize the same curriculum. The district Instructional Coach and Administration are part of both programs to ensure collaboration and consistency in program delivery and teaching. The YMCA is the only site that offers before and aftercare for a fee. The district determines placement based on multiple sets of criteria.

Early Childhood Program

Lifelong Learning Starts Here

CLINTON GLEN GARDNER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Eligibility Requirements

PEA

To be Eligible for the Lottery…

- Reside in Town of Clinton or Glen Gardner
- Turn 3 or 4 years old by October 1, 2025.

* If student is 5 years old by October 1, 2025- not considered eligible for PEA

- Successful submission of preschool lottery pre-registration for each child with the district by March 1, 2025

All required documents must be submitted with application in order for student to be part of the lottery

***Any applicants submitted after March 1, 2025 will automatically be added to the waitlist after the lottery. These applications will not be in the lottery regardless of the tier.**

Lottery Process

2025-2026 School Year Lottery

Applications accepted until March 1, 2025

Received 32 Applications

2025-2026 Universe Number= 54/18 (72)

Anticipated # of Classes: 4

Total Number of Students: 60 (including special education students)

83% of Universe being met for 2025-2026

Number of Spots open for 2025-2026: 24

Number of Applicants anticipated to be accepted:

Review Applications and Determine Tier

Tier 1 Students: 11 Tier 1 Students (as of 3/13)

- **Provided documentation of Income Eligibility**
- **Sibling is enrolled in the PEA program for 2025-2026 school year**
- **4 Year Olds (as of 10/1/2025)**

Income Eligibility: Tier 1

PEA

Income Eligibility :

Must be submitted by March 15, 2025

- **To verify income eligibility**

- **Provide, if applicable, NJ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Benefit Number upon pre-registration**

- **Complete free and reduced lunch application**

USDA sets sliding scale guidelines based on income and size of household

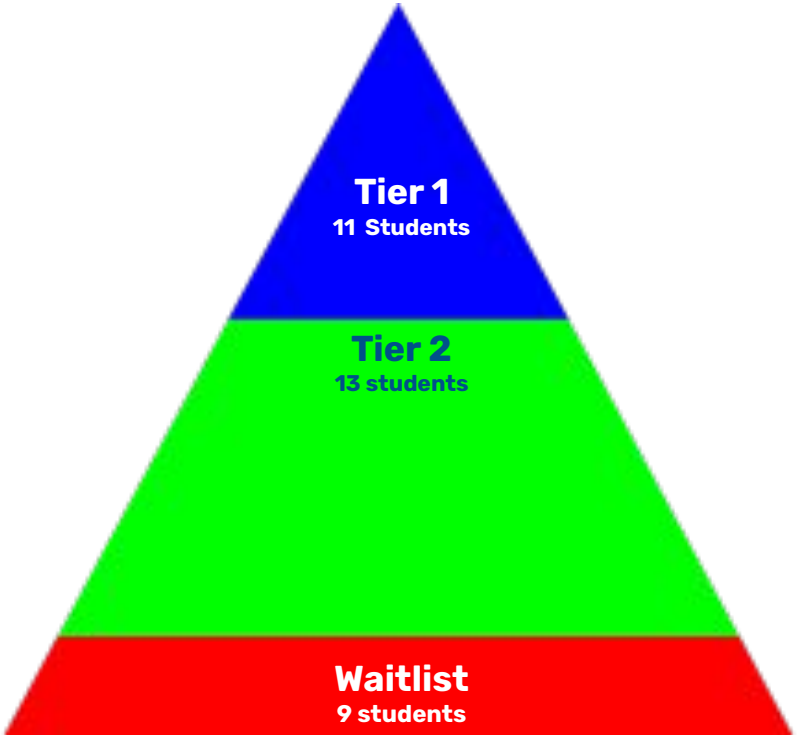
District will verify annually

Preschool Application Tiers

📌 **Tier 1 – Income Eligible, Age & Sibling Priority**
✔️ Families who qualify based on income eligibility (SNAP/TANF or Free & Reduced Lunch).
✔️ Applicants who have a sibling enrolled in the preschool program for 2025-2026 school year.
✔️ **4 Year Old** by 10/1/2025

📌 **Tier 2 – Applications**
✔️ Applicants who **do not** meet income eligibility requirements.
✔️ All other general applications submitted by the deadline.

📌 **Waitlist**
✔️ Applicants who **do not** get randomly selected in lottery



The Lottery Process

- Submitted completed application serves as a **lottery entry**

- All Tier 1 students will be given a spot in the preschool program before lottery is held

- **Lottery drawing will occur for Tier 2 students**
  - **Lottery Drawing Date: April 2, 2025**
  - **Lottery Drawing Time: 9:30 a.m.**

Children who are not selected for a spot will be added to waitlist in order selected in the lottery

Total Numbers of Applicants: 33 total

Total Spots Available: 24

Tier 1: Applicants Automatically Qualified: 11
4 Age, 6 Income, 1 Sibling

Total Spots Available (Tier 2): 13
(21 students in Tier 2)

Anticipated on Wait List: 9

Parent will receive acceptance letter and all required paperwork.
Return acceptance letter via email after the lottery.
Parent must accept placement by May 15, 2025

Transportation Survey will be sent to all who return acceptance letter. Survey to be completed by May 15, 2025

Placement Location Notification Letters will be sent to families in by May 27, 2025

Transportation forms will be sent to all families eligible for busing must be completed by June 2, 2025

All registration forms must be completed by June 2, 2025 (physical forms can be submitted later but Immunization must be completed)

Medical forms must be completed by Pediatrician by August 1st and submitted to school nurse

Preschool Requirement: Flu Shot by December 31 of each year. Must provide documentation to school nurse at CPS.

Failure to comply with the timelines will result in giving up spot in preschool program. A student on the waitlist will then be given the spot.

Any Questions?

Let's Have A Great Year!