



UNIVERSAL PRE-K (UPK) FAQ SHEET

Year Two | 2024-45

Q: Do children who are currently enrolled as 3-year-olds need to re-register for the 2024-25 year?

A: Yes. All families will need to register for the 2024-25 year as some new questions will be asked, and the application will be simplified for families.

Q: Will a family be eligible for priority enrollment if they are on a provider's wait list but not yet attending during the priority pre-registration period?

A: No. Families must be currently attending at the program site, have a sibling currently attending at the program site, or be a child of a current employee of the provider to take advantage of the priority pre-registration period.

Q: What information will be required on my profile?

A: This will be available once provider set-up begins, but providers will be required to publish their rates so that families will know what they will be charged for any additional UPK hours.

Q: Do I have to participate for the 2024-25 UPK year if I sign up and then decide that it doesn't work for my business?

A: No. You can opt out of UPK at any time, but we suggest that you make that decision before the matching algorithms (open registration) begin, as that has the least impact on families.

Q: Does the state decide the calendar for my UPK program?

A: No, the provider sets up their own schedule. The expectation is, however, that providers will set up a schedule that at least somewhat aligns with the school year, as UPK payments run from August through May. All UPK providers should decide on a UPK calendar that offers at least 360 hours (part-day program) and publish that for the families. Providers offering a half-day program must offer at least 540 hours of UPK a year.

Q: Do I have to make up snow days and unplanned closures?

A: No, but a provider's UPK calendar should have some cushion built in so that families receive a minimum of 360 hours (part-time) or 540 hours (half-day) through the UPK calendar year.

Q: Can I increase or decrease my seats after I have completed my initial provider setup form?

A: Yes. However, it is easier to increase seats than to decrease seats, particularly after the matching algorithm has begun. If you need help in determining the number of seats that you should offer to UPK, contact Noreen at nglt@mac.com to make an appointment.

Q: If I have UPK seats that haven't been filled, can I fill those seats with non-UPK children?

A: Once you have decided on the number of UPK seats that you will offer, those seats "belong" to UPK unless you contact JI to ask to have your seat numbers reduced. Even now, we are supporting families to find a UPK seat, and we count on the information in BridgeCare concerning open seats to be accurate. It is frustrating for a family to be told that there is a seat at a provider and then have the provider tell them that they don't have seats when the family calls. If you would like UPK seats released, you MUST call or email JI to have that done.

Q. When will children be able to register for the 2024-25 school year?

A. Pre-registration for children with priority status will begin in late February. Open registration for children without priority status will begin sometime in late March to early April. The exact dates will be published as soon as they are known.

Q. Which children have priority for pre-registration with a provider?

A. Children who are currently attending with the provider, children who have siblings who are currently attending with the provider, and children who are current employees of the provider have priority status and are eligible to register during the pre-registration period.

Have additional questions or need support?

Contact the UPK staff at UPK@jointinitiatives.org.