



Building success beyond the classroom

# 2021-2022 REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF PREK STUDENTS

## WELCOME!

Thank you for choosing the School District of Pickens County! We welcome you and want you to know we are committed to our mission of **providing quality educational experiences that prepare all students to be successful beyond the classroom.** We look forward to serving you!

## OUR COMMUNICATION

We encourage you to visit our websites and social media (Facebook/Twitter) pages often. We continuously provide updates about district and school news and events. In addition, you will receive information at the beginning of the year regarding our various forms of communication available with your child's teacher and school.

**District Website:** [www.pickens.k12.sc.us](http://www.pickens.k12.sc.us)

**Like us on Facebook:** @SchoolDistrictofPickensCounty

**Follow us on Twitter:** @PickensSchools

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Our PreK programs meet the needs of children who are considered "at-risk" based on established criteria. Since each program can only serve 20 students, we unfortunately are not able to serve all children who are screened. A list is created, from the most at-risk child to the least at-risk child both within the district and within attendance lines. We first serve those children whose screening results indicate they qualify and are most in need of the program. Our process is outlined below.

1. Parent/guardian should complete the online registration for the school in your attendance zone by using the following link: [http://www.pickens.k12.sc.us/parents/registration/online\\_registration](http://www.pickens.k12.sc.us/parents/registration/online_registration).
2. After completing online registration, parents will receive a link to sign up for a screening appointment with the district. Please contact the school if you need assistance or have questions about the appointment link.
3. We will screen the student for qualification at the screening appointment. We can proceed with screening before we receive all required documents. Details about this process will be included in the appointment link.
4. In late spring, parents will receive a letter informing them if their child (a) qualifies and will be enrolled, (b) has been placed on a waiting list, or (c) does not qualify.
5. When PreK students move during the school year, qualified students on waiting lists are offered the vacated spot. Also, qualified PreK students on the waiting list can attend schools with vacancies outside their attendance area if parents can provide transportation.
6. All qualifying PreK students **must provide all required enrollment documentation by the first day of school.** If documentation is not provided, the reserved spot may be given to the next child on the waiting list.

Enrollment is limited, so please register online as soon as possible! Children of district employees who register must be screened and qualify for the program to attend.

School District of Pickens County

## ENROLLMENT AGE

**3K Registration:** A child who is three years old on or before September 1, 2021 may register for three-year-old kindergarten; however, the child **must qualify** for the program. (Our district has 3K programs in the Liberty attendance areas.)

**4K Registration:** A child who is four years old on or before September 1, 2021 may register for four-year-old kindergarten; however, the child **must qualify** for the program.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS & PROOF OF RESIDENCE

To enroll in SDPC, a student must reside in Pickens County with his or her parent or legal guardian and provide the following **three required documents**:

1. Student's **state-issued birth certificate** – not the hospital keepsake copy;
2. Student's completed **South Carolina Certificate of Immunization**;
3. **Proof of Pickens County residence** – Acceptable proof is a current electricity, gas, water or cable/satellite bill in the parent/guardian's name. The bill must show the service address. If a bill in the parent/guardian's name is not available, an *Affidavit of Residence* is required. An affidavit can be done at the screening appointment.

**Please bring these documents to your screening appointment.** Proof of Pickens County residence is required when a student first enrolls at any school. A principal may also require proof to verify the student's residence at any time.

## SCHOOL CHOICE

Parents/Guardians may apply for student admission to a school outside their area of residence. Applications for school choice will be available at your screening appointment. Applications should be submitted no later than April 9, 2021.

1. Parents of a 4K child should complete an application and intent survey at your screening appointment. The application will be processed by the district and requesting school principal for approval by the superintendent or his/her designee. Your request will be processed as quickly as possible. 4K requests for school choice will be approved by the end of May. **We ask that you please refrain from calling the school or district to find out about acceptance. All letters will be sent at the same time.**
2. School Choice Acceptance:
  - a. Students must have a qualifying score.
  - b. Scores are prioritized based on need.
  - c. 4K openings are filled in the following order:
    - i. 1st Priority- Students who are zoned for the school
    - ii. 2nd Priority- If the zoned 4K program is full, students who qualify may be given options to openings at other sites
    - iii. 3rd Priority- Students who have requested school choice are then considered for remaining openings

## FREE & REDUCED MEALS

Federal law requires that each family have access for completing a free and reduced meal application. Applications will be available online for the 2021-2022 school year at [www.sdpcnutrition.com](http://www.sdpcnutrition.com) in late July, 2021. After the application is processed, parents may check the student's meal status online to see if students qualify for free or reduced price meals and print the confirmation letter. Contact Student Nutrition Services at 864-397-1167 or 864-397-1166 with any questions.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR & STUDENT PARENT HANDBOOK

The 2021-2022 School Calendar draft is posted on our website. Meet the Teacher schedules will be posted online later in the year. **Our 4K students typically begin on a different schedule from the rest of our students at the beginning of the year.** We will provide detailed information regarding your school's orientation meeting and beginning of the year schedule once your child has qualified.

## HOME LANGUAGE SURVEY

Upon each student's initial enrollment in the district, the parent/guardian must complete the *Home Language Survey*.

## REGISTRATION PROCESS CHECKLIST

The checklist below lists information needed to complete your child's registration, along with helpful instructions. To begin the registration process, parents should go to the following URL for more information and directions: [http://www.pickens.k12.sc.us/parents/registration/new\\_student\\_gateway](http://www.pickens.k12.sc.us/parents/registration/new_student_gateway).

READ/ COMPLETED	FORMS	INSTRUCTIONS
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Student Database Information (Online)	Provide complete information. It will be reviewed at your screening appointment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medical Information (Online)	Provide complete information. It will be reviewed at your screening appointment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	ESOL Information (Lavender)	You will provide information and sign the document at your screening appointment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Birth Certificate Immunization Proof of Residence	Provide these documents at your screening appointment. A copy will be made for placement in your child's permanent record.