

Gates Chili Prekindergarten Program Information

Q: What is Universal Prekindergarten (UPK)?

A: The Gates Chili UPK program is designed to offer four-year olds daily instruction that increases awareness and competence in five domains derived from the New York State Prekindergarten Standards:

1. Physical Development and Health
2. Approaches to Learning
3. Social and Emotional Development
4. Communication, Language and Literacy
5. Cognition and Knowledge of the World (includes Math)

We accomplish this in a caring, active, play-based learning environment that is rich with adult-child interactions. Our daily instruction provides natural opportunities for children to learn readiness skills, exercise their curiosity and imaginations, and strengthen their ability to work well with others.

Q: How many children and teachers are in each classroom?

A: There are 18 students, one teacher, and one teaching assistant in each classroom.

Q: Are UPK teachers certified?

A: Yes, all UPK teachers are NYS certified.

Q: Who is eligible?

Your child must reside within the Gates Chili Central School District. Your child must turn 4 on or before December 1, 2021 to be eligible for the 2021-22 school year. A child who is eligible to attend Kindergarten is not eligible for the UPK program.

Q: How many days per week is UPK?

All UPK classes are in session five days per week, Monday through Friday. The UPK program follows the Gates Chili Central School District calendar. When Gates Chili elementary students are off from school, there is no UPK.

Q: What are the hours of the program? Classes run from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

Q: Is there a cost for the program?

No. This is a New York State grant-funded education program. There is no cost for the 5-hour program. Any additional childcare hours/cost for students placed at Imagination Childcare are arranged directly with Imagination Childcare at parent(s) expense.

Q: Where is the UPK Program located?

During the 2021-22 school year, seven classrooms (126 openings) will be located at Imagination Childcare Academy, 230 Coldwater Road.

Q: Why are full day classrooms located at Imagination Childcare Academy?

Consolidating classrooms at one location helps to ensure that the program can be fully supported through grant funding, while also addressing space constraints in some of our elementary buildings. The New York State certified teachers at Imagination take pride in providing a high-quality learning experience for our prekindergarten students.

Q: Does the Gates Chili School District provide transportation?

No. The district has examined the possibility of providing transportation; however, this is not an option due to the high cost. Parents/caregivers are responsible for transportation to and from the program. Timely drop off and pick up are required.

Q: How do I apply so my child will be considered for UPK?

Complete the online application available at gateschili.org/UPK no later than April 4th. Hard copies of applications are available upon request.

Q: How many openings are there?

There will be 126 full day UPK openings during the 2021-2022 school year.

Q: What happens if more applications are received than available openings?

Gates Chili will fill the openings through a lottery process. Once all openings are filled, students will be placed on a waiting list. If a vacancy occurs, families will be contacted in the order their names appear on the waiting list.

Q: When will the lottery take place?

The lottery will take place on April 5th.

Q: When will I be notified if my child is picked?

All families who have applied will be sent a letter indicating whether their child has received a placement or are on the waiting list. Letters will be mailed April 9th.

Q: What is the Half Day Integrated Prekindergarten?

Gates Chili is proud to be partnering with Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES to offer Half Day Integrated Prekindergarten Neil Armstrong. For the 2021-22 school year, there will be 12 openings (6 morning spots and 6 afternoon spots). Half-Day Integrated Prekindergarten classes:

- Have class sizes limited to 12 students total (6 students with disabilities and 6 nondisabled peers)
- Provide children with disabilities a classroom setting that is integrated with nondisabled peers.
- Provide a wonderful opportunity for children to learn and play together in a language rich environment.
- Are led by a certified special education teacher who has training in preschool education.
- Are supported by a paraprofessional in the classroom to enhance learning opportunities.
- Will focus on the skills students need to be prepared for kindergarten.
- Require parent transportation.
- Classes are in session five days per week, Monday through Friday.
- Morning session will run 9:15-11:45 AM. Afternoon session will run 12:30-3:00PM.