

Partnering with MECK Pre-K

to serve Mecklenburg County families



Dena Diorio
Mecklenburg County
Manager



Trinisha Dean
MECK Pre-K
Executive Director



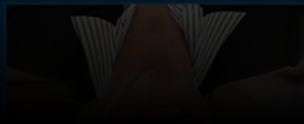
Anabel Paniagua-Doyle
MECK Pre-K Community
Outreach Recruiter



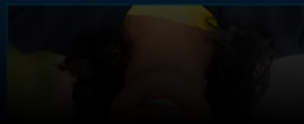
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for Children
Mecklenburg Partnership
smart start







Partnering With MECK Pre-K

To Serve Mecklenburg County Families

February 2021



Agenda

- 1 Welcome/Vision
- 2 Introduction to MECK Pre-K
- 3 How MECK Pre-K Works for Families
- 4 Partnering With MECK Pre-K



Presenters



Dena Diorio
*Mecklenburg County
Manager*



Trinisha Dean
*MECK Pre-K
Executive Director*



Anabel Paniagua-Doyle
*MECK Pre-K Community
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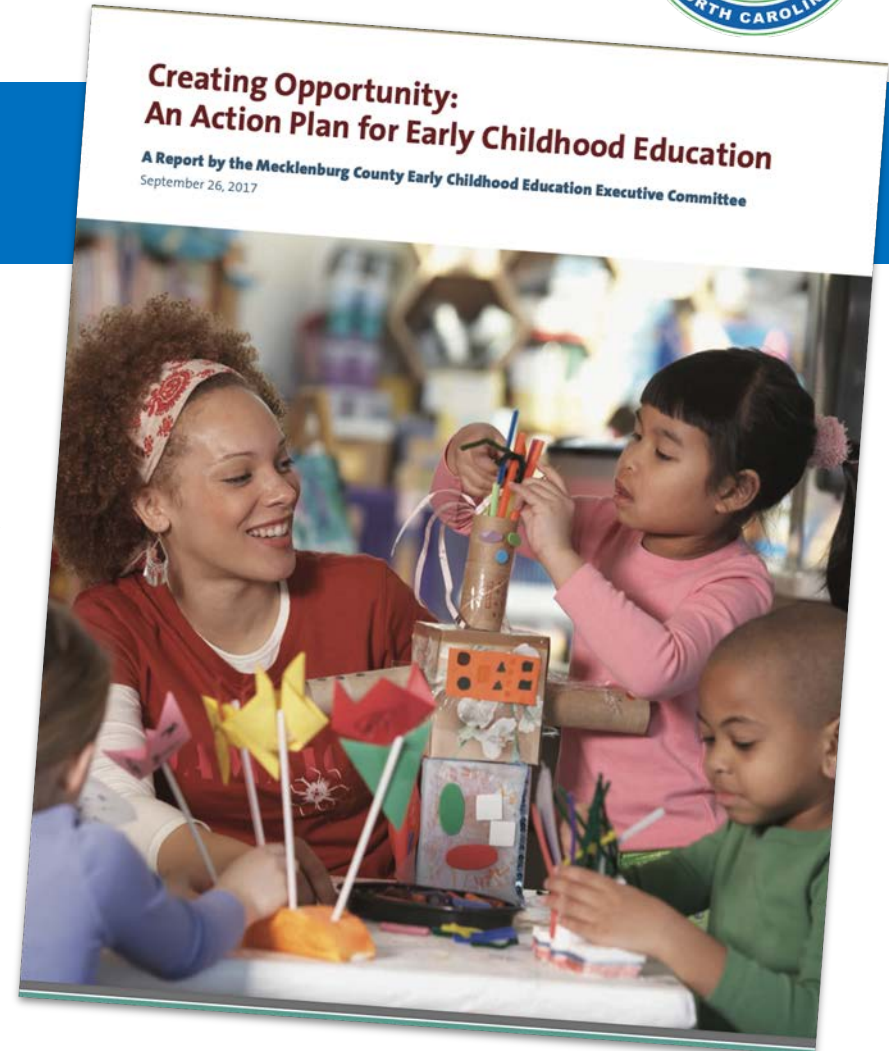
The Need For MECK Pre-K



Vision of Universal Pre-K for Mecklenburg County

2015 Leading on Opportunity Report

- 2015 County's Vision
- 2017 Action Plan
- 2018 MECK Pre-K First Year
- 2019 MECK Pre-K Second Year
- 2020 MECK Pre-K Third Year



Success Story: The Community Comes Together!





Part I

Introduction to MECK Pre-K





Smart Start and MPK



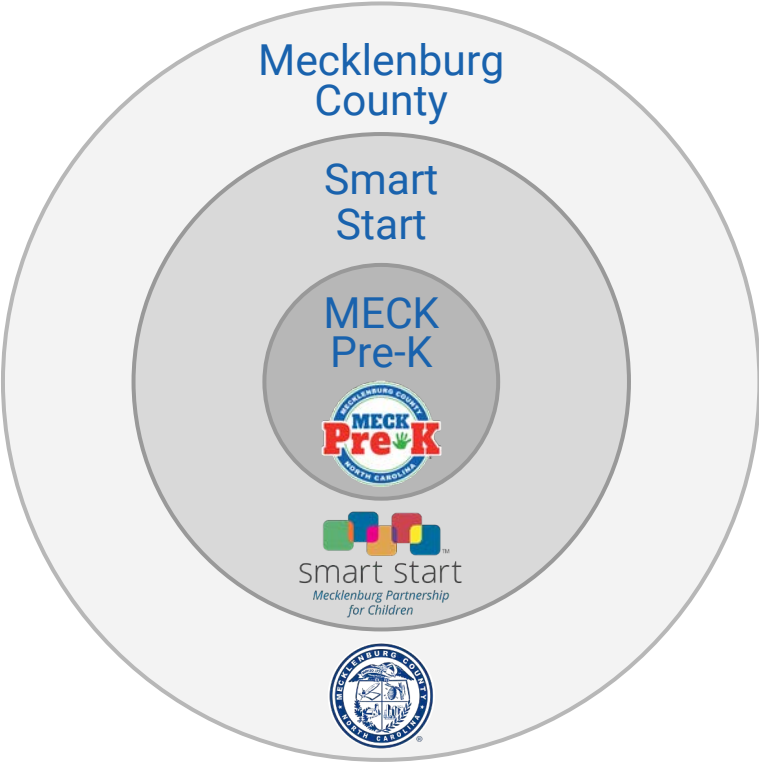
Smart Start
Mecklenburg Partnership
for Children

Smart Start of Mecklenburg County

mobilizes resources, forges partnerships, and supports families to improve early childhood health, education and development, and ensure children are prepared for kindergarten.



MECK Pre-K is a county-funded program administered by Smart Start and an essential part of the early education process to help children and their families succeed in kindergarten and beyond.



Meet MECK Pre-K



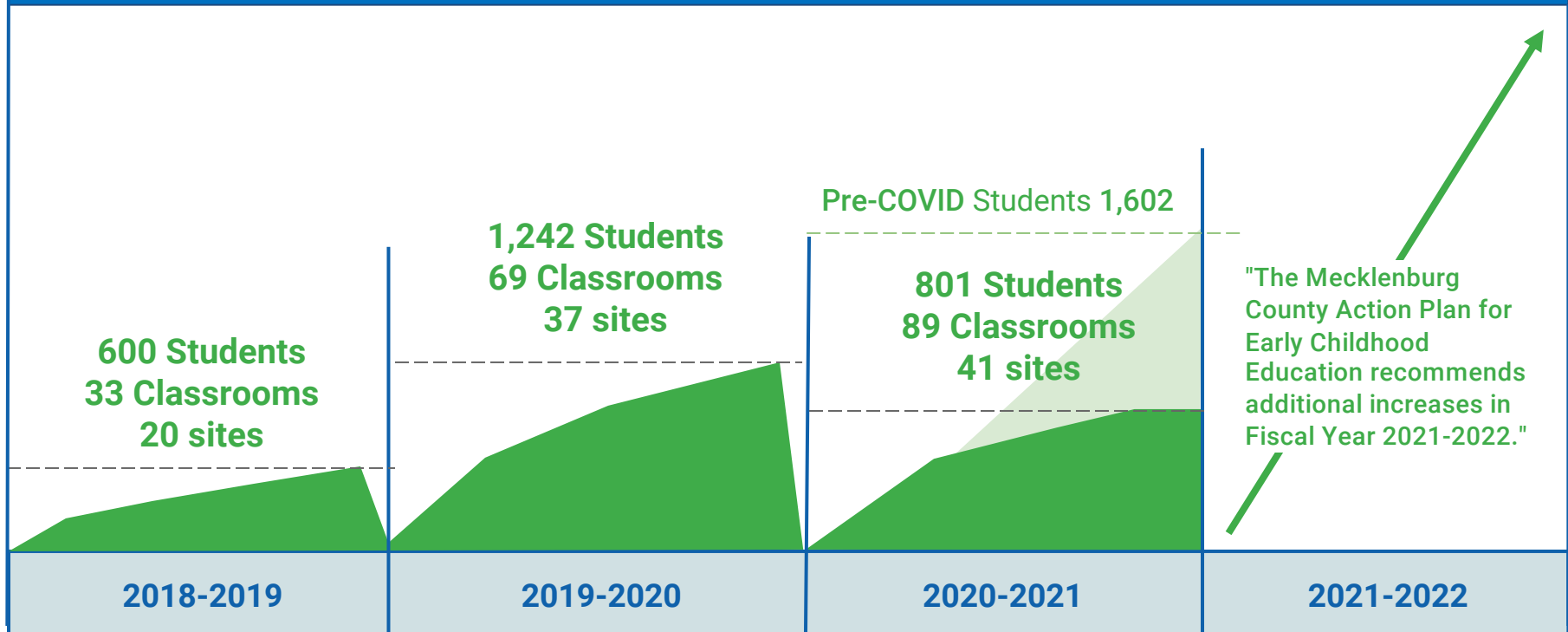
MECK Pre-K is a Mecklenburg County-funded program that offers free, quality pre-kindergarten to eligible four-year-old children.

Income restrictions have been lifted for the 2020-21 school year in response to COVID-19 challenges for families experiencing financial hardships. Priority has been given to lower income families.

MECK Pre-K Grows Then Restarts Every Year



Growth Towards Universal Pre-K in Mecklenburg County



We need continued support from Partners to fill the increased number of slots!



All About Quality

Teacher Qualifications (UNCC-CPCC Partnership)

MECK Pre-K teachers must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in early childhood, child development, or related field and have a BK (birth through kindergarten) license or be working toward BK licensure.

MECK Pre-K teacher assistants must have or be working towards a minimum of an associate's degree in early childhood education or child development.



All About Quality

Investments Toward Quality

Financial Support for teachers with an associate’s degree in early childhood education who want a bachelor’s degree.

A Pilot Program to train 50 teachers for MECK Pre-K over the next two years. Teachers will be able to obtain their birth-to-kindergarten license while tuition, fees and other expenses like childcare are paid for.

Early Childhood Life Navigators at Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) to help students respond to obstacles and help them stay in school.

Assistance to Staff working in childcare centers to earn their associate’s degree, by providing scholarships and support for them to attend CPCC.



Teacher Testimonials

“Our goal is to prepare each child for kindergarten and the grades to follow. To give them an idea of what school will be like, its rhythms and routines. To level the playing field so that every child has an opportunity to be successful in the classroom and in life outside of class. Yes, we teach the fundamentals – their ABC’s and 1-2-3’s. But, we do it in a way that develops the whole child, and that helps them flourish in the world beyond the classroom.”

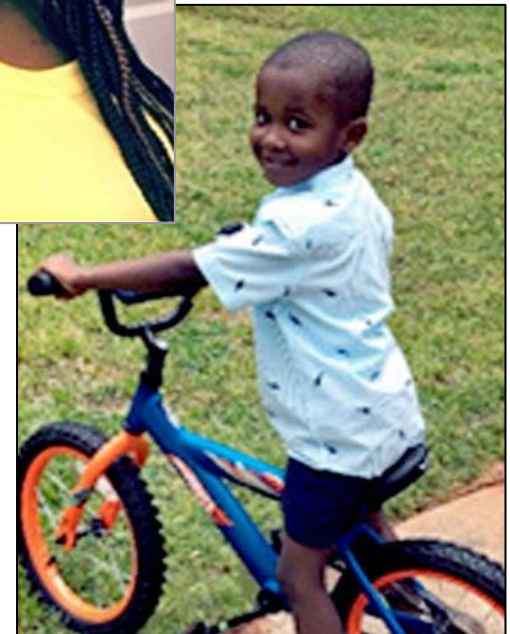
- Mandy Petrillo, Teacher Assistant



Parent Testimonials

“I am so thankful for MECK Pre-K. I know the program has been helpful to Emory. He’s learning so many new things. One day he is telling me about the solar system and the next day, he is telling me about storm clouds. He is just soaking up all the lessons with an excitement that’s great to see. He knows his letters now and can write his name. He also enjoys the read-alouds and I like reading with him in the evening. Emory is smart. He has learned so much. I know he will be ready for kindergarten and we have MECK Pre-K to thank for that.”

- Tiffany, MECK Pre-K Parent



Parent Testimonials

“My daughter is much more social and has warmed up to the idea of being away from me or her grandmother everyday. She thrives from a structure and enjoys knowing exactly what she will be doing daily. I love the placement she received. Her teachers and the entire preschool staff are fantastic. I know the quality of education and services she is receiving is what she deserves, but I would not be able to afford. If she was not part of the MECK Pre-K program, she would be doing pre-k virtually and would not be thriving the way she is now.”

- Brittney, MECK Pre-K Parent



COVID-19 Response

Leading the Response

Carefully monitored the health situation and consulted with officials from Mecklenburg County, the NC Division of Public Health and the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

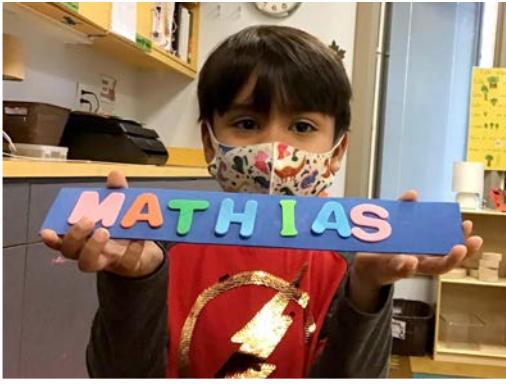
Led the charge for safely returning to in-person instruction.

Worked with centers to ensure adherence to local directives and NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) health and safety protocols.



COVID-19 Response

The Safe Classroom Experience





Part II

How MECK Pre-K Works For Families



MECK Pre-K Requirements



Child must live in Mecklenburg County



Child must be age four on or before August 31 of that year

Other considerations may include income, military status and other demonstrated needs.





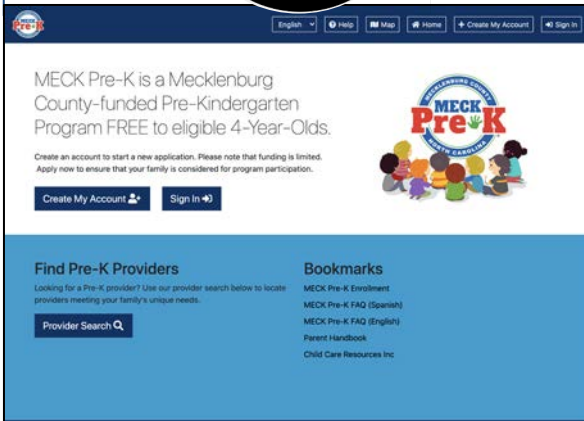
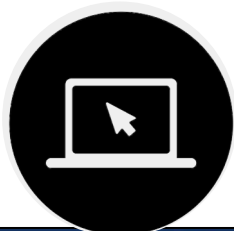
Year-Round Registration

Registration launches *March 1st for the coming school year.



Ways to Apply

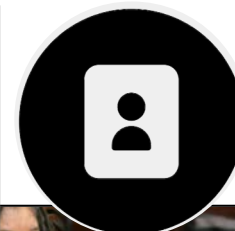
Online at MeckPreK.org



By Mail



In Person



Scan to Email or Fax



How to Apply



Apply Online

For your convenience, you can now [apply online](#) on a computer, tablet or smartphone. If you are unable to apply online, [contact us](#) to request an application. We're here to help!



Upload Documents

MECK Pre-K requires certain documents to verify your child's eligibility. You can securely upload these to the online application. Your application will not be complete until you have provided all required documentation.




Check Your Mailbox

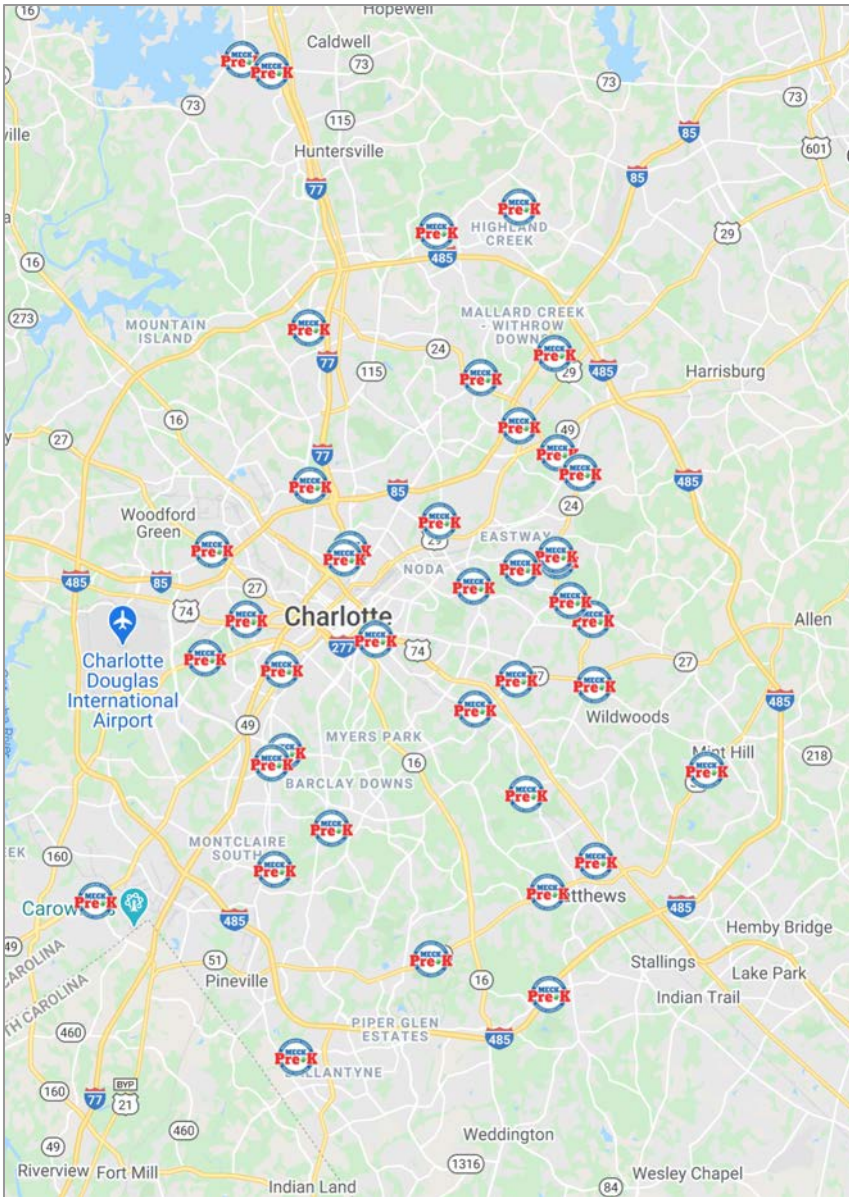
You will receive a email or letter notifying you that your child is officially accepted into MECK Pre-K! Be sure to share the news with your friends and neighbors by posting on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube!

[Click to Apply Online!](#)

What We Need from Families

-  Completed Application
-  Name and Age of Your Child
-  Personal Identification
-  Mecklenburg County Residency
-  Income Documentation





Locations



MECK Pre-K programs are located in high-quality **four- and five-star childcare centers** throughout Mecklenburg County.

Some sites provide transportation for a nominal fee.

COVID-19 Update

Operations During COVID-19

To ensure the safety of children, families, teachers and providers, MECK Pre-K has made the following changes:

1. Class sizes have been reduced to allow for social distancing.
2. MECK Pre-K leadership is having regular operational/health/policy check-ins with State and Local Departments of Health and Human Services, Mecklenburg County, Smart Start Leadership and Child Care Resources staff.
3. Mecklenburg County Public Health Leadership is hosting sessions for MECK Pre-K Providers and Teachers.
4. MECK Pre-K is working with providers to ensure that they adhere to required NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) health and safety protocols.
5. MECK Pre-K and providers are providing regular communications to enrolled families about COVID-19 safety.





Part III

Partnering with MECK Pre-K





Partnership Stories...



NOVANT Health Partners

attended one of our Registration Drive-Thru events.

Families picking up and dropping off documents for the 2020-2021 school year received masks for their whole family in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Together, NOVANT and MECK Pre-K were able to provide a great service to Charlotte families.



Camino Community Center

put together a community event and invited MECK Pre-K along with other agencies and entities participated to create a multipurpose event.

The event included mask distribution by Atrium Health, Census 2020 & voter registration and information, food distribution and a MECK Pre-K table to collect information from future MECK Pre-K families and distribute information, books and other “swag.”



Partnering is Easy

-  Be sure the families you work with know about the MECK Pre-K opportunity.
-  Join our newsletter email list and follow us on social media for the latest information; have your key staff and families join too!
-  Provide MECK Pre-K registration information on your website and social media channels to make sure your families don't miss out!
-  Let's host events together!



Partner Toolkit



COVID-19 Safety Measures

- Staggered drop-off and pick-up times to limit direct contact with parents/caregivers as much as possible.
- Daily health screening of any person entering the building.
- Hand washing with soap, frequent use of hand sanitizer and tissues, and frequent hygiene breaks.
- Isolation of anyone who shows COVID-19 symptoms.
- Mandatory quarantine or quarantine of children or staff who have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Maintaining "bubbles" - groups of children in assigned rooms throughout the day.
- Daily health screening of any person entering the building including children, staff and approved visitors.
- Face coverings for all staff and for children over the age of 2 when possible.
- Regular cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Prioritizing outdoor time when possible.

These mitigation measures were developed using NC Dept. of Health and Human Services Interim Guidance for Child Care Settings.

COVID-19 Safety

2020-2021 Site Locations
Ubicaciones de los locales para el 2020-2021

ZIP CODE	CITY	ZIP CODE	CITY
27013	Charlotte	27017	Charlotte
27016	Charlotte	27024	Charlotte
27019	Charlotte	27034	Charlotte
27021	Charlotte	27042	Charlotte
27025	Charlotte	27051	Charlotte
27027	Charlotte	27053	Charlotte
27028	Charlotte	27054	Charlotte
27030	Charlotte	27055	Charlotte
27032	Charlotte	27057	Charlotte
27033	Charlotte	27058	Charlotte
27035	Charlotte	27060	Charlotte
27036	Charlotte	27061	Charlotte
27037	Charlotte	27062	Charlotte
27038	Charlotte	27063	Charlotte
27039	Charlotte	27064	Charlotte
27040	Charlotte	27065	Charlotte
27041	Charlotte	27066	Charlotte
27043	Charlotte	27067	Charlotte
27044	Charlotte	27068	Charlotte
27045	Charlotte	27069	Charlotte
27046	Charlotte	27070	Charlotte
27047	Charlotte	27071	Charlotte
27048	Charlotte	27072	Charlotte
27049	Charlotte	27073	Charlotte
27050	Charlotte	27074	Charlotte
27052	Charlotte	27075	Charlotte
27056	Charlotte	27076	Charlotte
27059	Charlotte	27077	Charlotte
27069	Charlotte	27078	Charlotte
27079	Charlotte	27079	Charlotte

Site Locations

Applying for MECK Pre-K is as easy as 1-2-3!

- Apply Online**
Our new online application makes it easy to apply!
- Fill out an application and track it online.
- Upload your documentation online.
- Available to English and Spanish.
- Upload Documents**
MECK Pre-K requires certain documents to confirm your child is eligible.
Required documents include:
- Proof of Child's Age (Birth Certificate, Passport, etc.)
- Proof of Income (Tax Return, etc.)
- Proof of Residence (Mortgage Statement, etc.)
- Check Your Mailbox**
You will receive a letter or email notifying you that your child is officially accepted.

Call or visit MECK Pre-K at 704.943.6999 or info@meckprek.org

Easy Application Guide

Social Media Content

Posting Tips

- Use high-quality photos and videos.
- Write clear, concise captions.
- Use relevant hashtags.
- Engage with comments and messages.

Facebook and Instagram Sample Posts

Twitter Sample Posts

Helpful Links

Resources

Follow MECK Pre-K

Call or visit MECK Pre-K

Social Media Primer

Join our email list!

Text: MeckPreK
To: 22828

Digital Assets

MECK Pre-K Application 2021/2022 Required Documentation

- Completed Application
- Proof of Child's Date of Birth and Legal Name
- Proof of Current Residency
- Proof of Current Income
- Proof of Current Household Income
- Proof of Parental Consent
- Proof of Child's Health Status (if applicable)
- Proof of Child's Immunization

Apply online at meckprek.org or submit your application and documents to MECK Pre-K at 704.943.6999.

Application Cover Sheet

FREE Pre-K for children in Mecklenburg County!

MECK Pre-K is FREE for 4-year-olds who live in Mecklenburg County. Please read below for more information, and visit meckprek.org for additional resources on such as translations, online application, and more!

Participation in Pre-K is essential for the early development of the whole child. Pre-K provides a foundation for school readiness and academic achievement. It helps children develop social skills, problem-solving abilities, and a positive attitude towards learning.

What is MECK Pre-K?
MECK Pre-K is a high-quality, state-funded pre-kindergarten program for 4-year-old children who live in Mecklenburg County. It is designed to prepare children for school success by providing them with a strong foundation in literacy, math, and social-emotional skills.

For your convenience you can now APPLY ONLINE!

Fact Sheet

MECK Pre-K FAQs

What is MECK Pre-K?
MECK Pre-K is a high-quality, state-funded pre-kindergarten program for 4-year-old children who live in Mecklenburg County. It is designed to prepare children for school success by providing them with a strong foundation in literacy, math, and social-emotional skills.

Who is eligible for MECK Pre-K?
Children who are 4 years old as of September 1st of the current school year and who live in Mecklenburg County are eligible for MECK Pre-K. Children who are 3 years old as of September 1st and who are currently in a state-funded pre-kindergarten program are also eligible.

How do I apply for MECK Pre-K?
You can apply for MECK Pre-K online at meckprek.org or by mail. You will need to provide proof of your child's age, current residence, and current income.

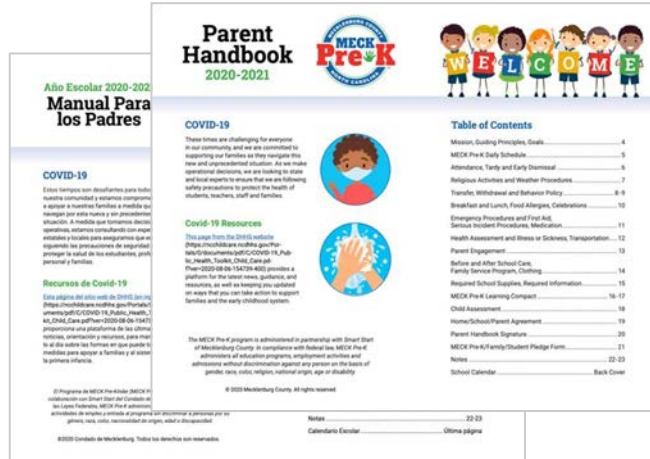
When can I enroll in MECK Pre-K?
Enrollment for MECK Pre-K begins in August of each year. There are two enrollment periods: one for children who are 4 years old as of September 1st and one for children who are 3 years old as of September 1st.

FAQs

Partner Toolkit



Bookmark



Parent Handbook



COVID-19 Safety



Promotional Graphics for Partner website and social media



Partnering with MECK Pre-K Presentation



All About MECK Pre-K Presentation

Stay Informed



Sign Up
For Our E-Newsletter!

Follow The
MECK Pre-K Affinity Groups



Teachers of MECK Pre-K



Familias Latinas para
MECK Pre-K

Join Our
Social Media Networks



MECK Pre-K is Committed to Your Safety.

We are proud to protect your child and our staff.

You must cover your nose and mouth with a cloth covering.

Non-medical masks, bandanas, or scarves can also be used.

We appreciate your cooperation!

Visit our COVID-19 Page to Learn More

MECK Pre-K is high-quality pre-kindergarten available to qualified children. It is County-funded and FREE of charge.

FREE Pre-K for eligible Mecklenburg County 4-year-olds!
MECK Pre-K is FREE, available to eligible children and taught by licensed teachers and assistants.
Click here for eligibility requirements

Find A MECK Pre-K Location Near You!
MECK Pre-K is offered through high-quality four- and five-star child care centers throughout Mecklenburg County.
See current MECK Pre-K locations!

Follow MECK Pre-K!
Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube to keep up with all the latest MECK Pre-K news and to show your support for MECK Pre-K in Mecklenburg County!

Visit Our
Website For
Updated
Information

Look for MECK Pre-K Events!



Drive-Thru Registration Event



Register for this event for a chance to win a Walmart Gift Card!



Click for more information and to register

Face masks are strongly encouraged. Event will take place rain or shine.



Hosted by
MECK Pre-K
Director
Trinisha Dean



All about MECK Pre-K

Where: facebook.com/MECKPreK

Click here for more details



Next Orientation Webinar for Families



 **Todo Sobre MECK Pre-K**

Acompáñenos para un vistazo completo del proceso de la solicitud. Haga preguntas y obtenga respuestas. Si su niño tiene 4 años en o antes del 31 de agosto, ¡sintonícese! ¡Aprenda todo sobre MECK Pre-K!


Jueves 15 de abril 6:30 pm
Jueves 13 de mayo 6:30 pm
Jueves 10 de junio 6:30 pm

Únete en facebook.com/MECKPreK




Presentado por Anabel Paniagua-Doyle
Alcance Comunitario de MECK Pre-K



smart start
Mecklenburg Partnership for Children


 **All About MECK Pre-K**


Join us on the MECK Pre-K Facebook page for a complete walkthrough of the application process. Ask questions and get answers. If your child is 4 before August 31st, tune in! Learn everything about MECK Pre-K!

Tuesday, April 13 at 6:30pm
Tuesday, May 1 at 6:30pm
Tuesday, June 8 at 6:30pm

Join us on facebook.com/MECKPreK




Hosted by MECK Pre-K Executive Director Trinisha Dean


smart start
Mecklenburg Partnership for Children


Drive-Thru Events for Families




Planned Dates

- June 12th
- July 10th
- August 14th
- September 11th

Drive-Thru Registration Event



Register for this event for a chance to win a Walmart Gift Card!

Walmart 

[Click for more information and to register](#)

Face masks are strongly encouraged. Event will take place rain or shine.





Partnering for Success

Annabel Paniagua-Doyle

MECK Pre-K

Community Outreach Recruiter



Visit: [MeckPreK.org](https://www.MeckPreK.org)

Call: 704-943-9589 (Direct Line)

Email: CommunityPartnership@meckprek.org



Follow MECK Pre-K using @MeckPreK!



Join our email list!



Text: MeckPreK
To: 22828

Follow us on social media!





Thank you!