

The Windham Southeast Supervisory Union supports publicly funded pre-kindergarten education for children between the ages of 3 and 5 who reside in the towns of Brattleboro, Dummerston, Guilford, Putney, and Vernon.

What is publicly funded pre-kindergarten?

Publicly-funded pre-k education (pre-k) is early education for 3, 4 and 5-year olds not yet in kindergarten, designed to provide young children with 10 hours a week of developmentally appropriate early learning experiences based on Vermont’s Early Learning Standards. In the 2015-16 school year, 182 children in the WSESU towns used public pre-k funding in 18 different preschools that have partnership contracts with a WSESU school district.

Who is eligible for publicly funded pre-k? Children are eligible for the funding if they reside in the towns of Brattleboro, Dummerston, Guilford, Putney, and Vernon; are three years old by September 1, 2016; and are enrolled in a prequalified partner preschool for at least 10 hours per week.

Where are the publicly-funded prequalified pre-k programs? The towns of WSESU partner with community-based early childhood programs that are prequalified by the Agency of Education and meet specific high-quality standards: they have a licensed early childhood teacher; they are accredited by NAEYC or in the STARS system and have four or five stars, and they follow the Vermont Early Learning Standards. *Pending approval from AOE, the following programs are partners with WSESU town school districts:*

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| Brattleboro Nursery School | Mulberry Bush Early Learning Center | West Bee Nursery School |
| Hilltop Montessori School | Neighborhood Schoolhouse | Vernon Preschool |
| Meeting House School | Sunflower Farm Preschool | Winston Prouty Center |
| HoriZinn Early Learning | Brattleboro Centre for Children | The Grammar School |
| Kids in the Country | Saxton’s River Montessor School | Miss Martha’s Creative Learning |
| The Little Red House | The Garland School | Timson Hill Preschool |

How does the funding work? \$3092 per child is allocated for ten hours of pre-k education per year, paid by the school district directly to the preschool to offset your tuition. Since most children attend preschool or child care for more than ten hours a week, parents are responsible for paying their child’s tuition for anything over the ten hours a week of pre-kindergarten education.

Putney Central School has a preschool for Putney residents only. There is no charge for this preschool. Applications for Putney Central’s preschool are available by calling the school, 387-5521.

How do I apply? Registration forms are available at the preschools listed above, on the WSESU website: www.wssu.k12.vt.us, at the WSESU Central Office, 53 Green St., or the EEE Office at 98 Estey St. in Brattleboro. You may also call Janice Stockman (254-3755) for an application.