

FIRST STEP PRESCHOOL

Newport News Public Schools

Screening Appointments are now available for the 2012 - 2013 School Year



Please call 283-7788, ext. 12183
between 9am and 4pm
to make an appointment.

*This does not apply to students currently
enrolled in First Step.*



The Newport News School Division does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, creed, marital status, age, or disability in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, and ADA regulations. **Eddie Antoine**, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, at 12507 Warwick Blvd., Newport News, VA 23606, (757-881-5061), is responsible for coordinating the division's efforts to meet its obligations under Section 504, Title IX, the ADA, and their implementing regulations.

FIRST STEP PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
(2012 - 2013)
Classes begin September 4, 2012

1. First Step is a voluntary preschool program that provides developmental school-readiness activities for 4 and 5 year olds.
 - All First Step Early Childhood Centers host full-day programs. The program is free.
 - First Step Center assignments are based on the home address of the child's parent/legal guardian.
 - There are approximately 18 students in each class. Each class is taught by a certified teacher with a certified teacher assistant.
 - Transportation is provided to and from the First Step Center, based on the home address of the child's parent/legal guardian. Bus stops at day care providers may be available if the location is within the student's school zone.
 - Workshops and activities for parents are an important part of the program.
 - First Step students enter kindergarten the following school year.

2. To be eligible for the program the child must:
 - live in a Newport News Public Schools zone.
 - turn four years old before September 30, 2012 or five during October, November, or December 2012.
For the 2012-2013 school year, the child must have been born between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008. (Children born between Jan. 1 - Sept. 30, 2007 will start kindergarten. Please contact your nearest elementary school for more information.)
 - be completely toilet trained (no exceptions).
 - have an NNPS Preschool Screening. The Preschool Screening is used to rank students by school-readiness. The ranking list is used to invite students with the greatest school-readiness need first, until all spaces are filled.
 - When a First Step Center reaches full capacity, the ranking list is used to develop a Waiting List for each First Step Center. Children are invited as space becomes available. Students on the Waiting List do not receive priority based on screening date or score relative to enrolled students. Students who meet at least one of the following criteria are also given priority on the ranking list:
 - have attended Even Start or Head Start within the past two years. (Written documentation from Even Start/Head Start will be required at the time of registration for First Step.)
 - have their 5th birthday in October, November, or December, 2012 and, therefore, are not eligible for kindergarten. (Birth certificate will be required at the time of registration for First Step.)

3. Within 90 days from the screening, parents are notified by letter if their children are invited to participate in First Step. This letter will contain the information needed to register and enter the program. If all spaces are filled, children will go on a Wait List. *It is important that the First Step Office have the most current address and phone number on file. Please call 283-7788, ext. 12183, if contact information changes.*

4. If accepted in the program, the child will be assigned to a First Step Center, and transportation will be provided to a bus stop near the child's home. School assignments are based on the home address of the child's parent/legal guardian in Newport News. The sites for First Step classes for the 2012-2013 school year are:
 - ♦ Denbigh Early Childhood Center
 - ♦ Lee Hall Early Childhood Center
 - ♦ Marshall Early Childhood Center
 - ♦ Watkins Early Childhood Center

5. If a child is accepted in the First Step Program, the parents are required to:
 - complete the registration process in a timely manner. (Space may be given to children on the Wait List after the registration period.)
 - participate in parent meetings when requested.
 - have a responsible person either pick-up the child at school or meet the school bus on time, every day, with the supplied yellow ID pick-up card.
 - make sure their child wears the supplied nametag each day.

6. Please call 283-7788, extension 12183, to make an appointment for a Preschool Screening or if you have questions.