

**Knox County Schools**  
**Blended Preschool Program**  
**2017-18**

**Monday-Friday Sites**

Cedar Bluff Preschool (2 classrooms)  
West Hills Elementary  
Fort Sanders Educational Development Center  
Brickey McCloud Elementary (2 classrooms)  
Karns Elementary (2 classrooms)  
East Knox Elementary  
West Haven Elementary  
Halls Elementary

**Monday-Thursday Site**

Fort Sanders Educational Development Center

**Part Time Site (2 days per week for 2.5 hours each day)**

Fort Sanders Educational Development Center

\*Please read the following packet carefully. Applications are due back to Fort Sanders Educational Development Center by 2:00 on May 31, 2017.

Knox County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, gender, creed, color, or ethnicity.

## **KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS BLENDED PRESCHOOL PROGRAM**

The Knox County Blended Preschool Program is available at 8 sites in 13 classrooms across the district. These classes are inclusive/blended education classes for children ages 3-5. Up to eight peer models will be placed at each site to serve as peer helpers and models to students with disabilities. The blended preschool classroom is a structured teaching environment where students with disabilities and peer models learn together in a classroom that is staffed with one special education teacher and at least one educational assistant. The Knox County Schools Blended Preschool Program is a high-quality program that offers preschoolers, with and without disabilities, challenging experiences through a language-rich curriculum. All Knox County Schools preschool classrooms follow the Highscope curriculum, a language rich curriculum that focuses on whole child development. More information about the Highscope curriculum can be found at [www.highscope.org](http://www.highscope.org). The peer model application process is not intended for students identified with having an educational disability.

### **What can my child gain from participating in the Blended Preschool Program?**

In addition to participation in a high-quality, language rich classroom with an internationally recognized early childhood curriculum, there are many benefits to including typically developing peers and students with disabilities. Below are just a few of the benefits according to the Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs (9/2014):

- Typically developing children can show positive developmental, social and attitudinal outcomes from inclusive experiences
- They are capable of demonstrating greater compassion and empathy
- They have a more positive perception of children with disabilities
- They can develop a better understanding of diversity and disability
- There are more opportunities for individualized learning supports developmental growth
- There are benefits from working with developmental specialists who can identify and address student needs that may otherwise not be identified

**Hours:** School begins at 7:45am and ends at 1:15pm at all locations (slight changes may be made to this schedule based on arrival and dismissal procedures at each site). Times for breakfast and lunch will be a part of your child's daily routine. Parents are responsible for transportation to and from the program. Your child must be picked up at the designated time. After school care is not available for preschool students at most sites. Students are NOT permitted to stay on the school campus after preschool dismissal.

**Part Time Program Hours:** Part time enrollment is available at Fort Sanders Educational Development Center only. Attendance options include either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday from 7:45-10:15 or from 10:45-1:15. Students enrolled in the morning sessions will have breakfast, and students enrolled in the afternoon sessions will have lunch. Typically developing peers enrolled in this program should be good language, speech and behavior models.

### **To be accepted as a peer model, the following criteria must be met:**

- Children must be at least 3 years of age, but not yet five by August 15, 2017 to be considered. Children who are 5 by August 15, 2017 are eligible for kindergarten, therefore ineligible for the Blended Preschool Program.
- Children must be completely toilet trained to be considered as a peer model.

- Children should be easily understood in order to model appropriate speech and language as a peer model.
- Children should demonstrate excellent behavior to demonstrate consistently appropriate behavior and social interactions as a peer model.

• **Completed applications should be sent to Shelli Eberle at the Fort Sanders Educational Development Center by Wednesday, May 31, 2017.** Faxed applications will be accepted (594-5038), and should be sent to the attention of Shelli Eberle. You may want to confirm the receipt of faxed applications by calling 594-5035. The application must be complete for consideration.

**Guidelines for the Preschool Program:**

- Regular attendance is required.
- Parents must have their children at the program on time and pick them up at the designated time. After school care is not available for preschool students.
- School enrollment packet should be completed by August 5, 2017 if accepted into the program.
- The Tennessee Health Record Form is required for all children documenting their immunization history.
- A copy of a certified birth certificate is required.

**Cost:** Parents will be responsible for paying for their child’s breakfast and lunch each day, or the child can bring his/her own breakfast/lunch. Tuition for the Blended Preschool Classroom Program is \$150 per month (5 days/week programs), \$120 (4 days/week program at Fort Sanders only), or \$75 (2 day per week/part time program at Fort Sanders only) due by the first of each month. Tuition should be paid by cash or check directly to the school the student attends. Failure to pay tuition on time may result in dismissal from the program.

\*Tuition money is used to purchase materials for the classroom, consumables, furniture, rugs, professional development, staffing, and other expenditures approved by school administration that will directly impact students in the classroom.

If you would like to pursue a slot as a peer model for your child, please complete the following application and return to Shelli Eberle at Fort Sanders Educational Development Center by May 31, 2017. If you have any questions please contact Shelli Eberle at 594-5035.

**Only applications completed and returned by May 31, 2017 will be considered. Children of Knox County Schools employees will be given first priority. Parents will be notified if their child is selected to participate in the program by June 23, 2017.**

**KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS BLENDED PRESCHOOL PROGRAM APPLICATION**

Child's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: BOY or GIRL

Ethnicity: HISPANIC or NON-HISPANIC

Race (circle all that apply): ASIAN BLACK AMERICAN INDIAN  
PACIFIC ISLANDER WHITE

(Must be 3 by August 15, 2017).

What does your child like to be called? \_\_\_\_\_

**FAMILY:**

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Other children in the family:

Name

School

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the first language this child learned to speak? \_\_\_\_\_

What language does this child speak most often outside of school? \_\_\_\_\_

What language do people usually speak in this child's home? \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESCHOOL SITE PREFERENCE:**

Please rank the order of the sites you would be willing to attend (1-9). Please place an X on any sites you would not be able to attend.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Cedar Bluff Elementary
- \_\_\_\_\_ West Hills Elementary
- \_\_\_\_\_ Brickey McCloud Elementary
- \_\_\_\_\_ Karns Elementary
- \_\_\_\_\_ East Knox Elementary
- \_\_\_\_\_ West Haven Elementary
- \_\_\_\_\_ Halls Elementary
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fort Sanders Educational Development Center (5 day program)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fort Sanders Educational Development Center (4 day program)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fort Sanders Educational Development Center (2 day program)

How did you hear about our program?

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Has your child ever been referred to or evaluated by Child Find? YES or NO

If yes, when was the evaluation and what were the results of the evaluation?

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Is there any special medical information that the school should be aware of?

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Did your child participate in a KCS Blended Preschool classroom in 2016-17? If so, please list the site and teacher.

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## PRESCHOOL CHECKLIST

Read each item and think about your child's present behavior. Please place a check in the column that best fits your child's behavior. THERE ARE NO RIGHT AND WRONG ANSWERS.

Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

	Please check how often?		
	Never	Sometimes	Very Often
Follows directions			
Participates in organized group activities			
Asks permission before using other's property			
Responds appropriately when hit or pushed by other children			
Controls temper in conflict situations with parent or teacher			
Controls temper when conflict arises with other children			
Follows rules when playing with others			
Stays engaged with a task for an appropriate amount of time			
Shows interest in a variety of activities			
Engages with peers easily			
Puts away toys when asked			
Waits turn in games or other activities			
Joins group activities without being asked			
Communicates problems to you			
Speaks in an appropriate tone of voice			
Speech is easily understood by others			
Eats with a spoon and fork			
Is fully toilet trained			
Washes hands independently			
Drinks from an open cup			
Easily adapts to new situations			
Easily accepts separation from caregiver or parents			

Has your child previous attended a preschool program? If so, please indicate which one(s).

\_\_\_\_\_

Please give other information we should know about your child.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I have read the Blended Preschool Program Handbook and understand the requirements of a peer model enrolled in the program. I understand this application does not guarantee enrollment in the Knox County Schools Blended Preschool Program. Students will be selected by June 23, 2017, giving first priority to students of Knox County Schools employees.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Full Name

For office use only:

Date application received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date application reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_