

welcome to KINDERGARTEN



PARENT GUIDE

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WICHITA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS®



What do I need to know before my child starts school?

- Children must be 5 years old on or before August 31.
- Kindergarten is an all-day program.

Enrollment

- ✓ Visit the district's website at www.usd259.org/enroll or call your neighborhood school for more information, including how to enroll online and whether and when you'll need to visit the school to complete tasks.
- ✓ Parents need to provide proof of address to enroll in a school for the first time. You'll be able to upload this during online enrollment by taking a photo of it with your smartphone to upload in the system. This proof of address might include the following:
 - Rental receipt
 - Gas or electric bill
 - Lease agreement
 - Mortgage payment
- ✓ Before your child enters Kindergarten in Kansas, you are required to provide the school with the following documents:
 - Copy of child's birth certificate
 - Physical examination form
 - Kansas Certificate of Immunization (KCI) form
 - Dental form



All forms are available at your neighborhood school or most healthcare providers. If available at the time of enrolling online, you'll have the option to upload them to the system at that time. Directions will be available on the enrollment website for individuals without internet or smartphone access.

Transportation

Children attending a Magnet school, living along a hazardous route, or living 2.5 miles or more from their neighborhood school may qualify for free bus transportation. Check with your school to see if your child qualifies for a bus ride.



Before and After School Care

Latchkey (School-Age Program) is a before and after school program designed to provide childcare services for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Check with your neighborhood school for availability and pricing.



Attendance

Students are required to attend school every day. Good attendance provides students the opportunity to learn. Notify the school office if your child is sick or has an appointment to avoid an unexcused absence.



How can I help my child?

Prepare your child for Kindergarten by providing opportunities to do the following:

- sing ABCs, rhymes, and poems
- listen to and discuss books (ask questions like “What is your favorite part?”)
- recognize letters in their name
- take care of personal needs (blowing nose, using restroom, etc.)
- zip jacket, tie shoes, snap pants
- count things like steps as you walk, seconds to wash hands, amount of snack, etc.
- sort laundry, silverware, snacks and toys; discuss similarities and differences



Parents as Partners

Parents are their child's first teachers. Your involvement is critical to your child's success in school. Studies have shown that when parents are involved, children feel better about themselves and learn more.

Express your interest—Ask about your child's day, and look at the work your child brings home. Be excited!

Read aloud—Reading aloud builds your child's vocabulary and desire to learn to read. Make a routine of reading daily for 10–15 minutes.

Bedtime is a great time to relax with a good book!

Be a cheerleader—Your child may become frustrated while learning to read or write. It takes time, practice, and patience. Don't give up!

Support the classroom rules—Discuss why the rules are important.

Do your own “homework”—As a parent, your “homework” is to provide nutritious foods, safe places to play, needed medical care, and a regular bedtime routine in order to get enough rest so your child can learn.

Play board games—Board games are a great way to learn how to share, take turns, and handle mild competition while incorporating math and literacy skills.

Get involved—Attend school functions such as back-to-school night, parent conferences, and open house.



District Resources and Support

Located in the Joyce Focht Instructional Support Center at 412 S. Main, the Parent Teacher Resource Center is one of the best academic tools available to families in the state.

Here you can find a multitude of low cost materials including: math and reading activities for K-5 students, puzzles, varieties of dice for math games, and more! Available equipment includes: button makers, poster makers, laminators, and die cut machines for cutting out construction paper or form shapes.

<https://www.usd259.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=2173>

Helpful Websites

Wichita Public Schools | www.usd259.org

Wichita Public Schools Family Engagement | <https://www.usd259.org/Domain/633>



District Phone Numbers

General Information.....	973-4000
Latchkey (K-5 Before and After School Care).....	973-4782
Magnet Schools.....	973-4464
Parents as Teachers	866-8043
Parent Teacher Resource Center	973-5141
Prekindergarten Office.....	866-8037 or 866-8038
Early Childhood Office	866-8043

