



FSSA News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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On My Way Pre-K applications for the 2023-2024 school year now available Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning hopes to build on last year's record- setting enrollment

INDIANAPOLIS— Following a record-setting year of enrollment for On My Way Pre-K, Indiana's Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning is now accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year. On My Way Pre-K allows 4-year-olds from lower-income families to receive a free, high-quality, prekindergarten education through Indiana's only state-sponsored prekindergarten program. Information about the program and the link to apply can be found at OnMyWayPreK.org.

"We enrolled more than 6,200 children in 2022 and expect to enroll even more this year," said Courtney Penn, director of FSSA's Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning. "The [Purdue University long-term study](#) released last year showed that children who attend On My Way Pre-K are better prepared for school and that the benefits continue well into elementary school. As we enroll an even larger group of children, we know more will be better prepared to succeed throughout their school years."

For the 2023-2024 school year, a child is eligible for On My Way Pre-K if they:

- will be 4 years old by Aug. 1, 2023
- plan to start kindergarten in the 2024-2025 school year
- live in a household with an income below [127% of the federal poverty level](#)
- have parents or guardians who are working, attending job training or an educational program, looking for employment, or
- meet other requirements [specified on this page](#)

An easy-to-use, online application called "Early Ed Connect" serves as the application for both On My Way Pre-K and child care assistance provided via the federal Child Care Development Fund or CCDF. Early Ed Connect makes it easy to attach documents and notifies the user that their submission was successfully submitted. A Spanish version is also available.

Once the family has met eligibility requirements and completed the enrollment process, they may choose from any of the 1,055 approved On My Way Pre-K programs located across Indiana. These programs are operated in homes, centers, schools and religious settings, allowing families to choose the

type of setting that works best for them. Families can search approved providers at www.ChildCareFinder.IN.gov.

If a family needs help working through the enrollment process or finding an approved pre-K program, they can go to navigate.onmywayprek.org to connect with a manager in their county.

More than 21,000 Hoosier children have attended pre-K through the On My Way Pre-K program since it began in 2015. The program, which started as a five-county pilot and then expanded to 20 counties in 2017, became a statewide program in 2019. OECOSL also updates the Indiana General Assembly every year on the program. [The most recent report can be found here.](#)

The Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning is a division of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.

Families may call 800-299-1627 for assistance from an early learning referral specialist or for other questions about On My Way Pre-K.

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Additional Links:

[Headshot Courtney Penn, Director, Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning](#)

[Audio clip #1: Director Courtney Penn – On My Way Pre-K launch](#)

[Audio clip #2: Director Courtney Penn – On My Way Pre-K launch](#)

[On My Way Pre-K logo](#)