

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS.....

Rome City School District's UPK Program

1. Who is eligible for Rome City School District's UPK?

Any child whose parent is a resident within the Rome City School District and whose child is four-years of age on or before December 1st is eligible to register for the Pre-K program. **A child who is age-eligible to attend kindergarten is not eligible for the UPK program.**

2. Is UPK participation mandatory?

No. UPK is a voluntary program for both districts and children. Parents and/or guardians may choose, but are not required, to enroll their children in a UPK program. However, upon enrollment, the Rome City School District's attendance policy must be applied and students are expected to attend regularly.

3. Is there a cost for the Rome City School District's UPK program?

No, this program is free to all eligible students in the Rome City School District.

4. Is Rome City School District's UPK program 5 days per week and a minimum of 180 days per year?

Yes, it follows the Rome City School District's calendar with the same school vacations.

4A. Is Pre-K a full day or half day program?

Pre-K runs half days with morning and afternoon sessions. Currently, the morning session runs 8:00 – 10:30 AM and the afternoon session runs 11:30 – 2:00 PM. The times are subject to changes in the future as it is dependent on busing. Parents are allowed to transport their children to school.

5. Will a meal and snack be provided?

Breakfast will be provided for our Morning (AM) students and lunch will be provided for our Afternoon (PM) students. Parents may choose to provide their own meal rather than purchasing.

6. What are the certifications for the Rome City School District UPK teachers and teacher assistants?

Teachers and teaching assistants must hold a teaching license or TA certificate valid for service in the early childhood grades.

7. What are the class sizes for the UPK classes in the Rome City School District?

Classrooms have 18 - 20 children. There is one teacher and either one or two paraprofessionals assigned to each class depending on the number of students.

8. What are the hours of the Rome City School District's UPK program?

Current session times are as follows:

AM Session: 8:00am – 10:30 am **PM Session:** 11:30am – 2:00 pm

9. How are children placed in Rome City School District's UPK classes?

Parents must fill out a complete application to be considered. Students are placed randomly into the classes. The Rome City School District's UPK will honor parent requests to the best of its abilities and prides itself with integrating students with special needs into the UPK classrooms. Students that are transported by bus must adhere to the busing routes that will determine the session they will attend.

10. Can families choose which session the child attends?

Placement of students is dependent upon the transportation schedule. If the child rides the bus, their bus route will determine if they will attend the morning or afternoon session. However, parent transports may have the option of indicating their preference as to which session their child attends. We try our best to honor all preferences if at all possible.

11. Is bus transportation available?

Each year the Rome City School District's PreK program tries to provide bus transportation for accepted students. However, busing is not guaranteed.

12. Is there parent involvement?

There are plenty of opportunities for parents to be involved with their child's education. Parents are invited to attend assemblies during school hours, as well as evening family events such as movie night, Sweetheart Dance and the ice cream social. We also offer parenting workshops in the evening many with day care options. There are take – home projects, parent – teacher conferences and some chances to come in to volunteer.

13. How do I get an application?

To get an application you can stop at the main office at the Clough Building, 409 Bell Rd., during school hours, which are 8-3:30 OR call the office at 334-1250 and an application will be mailed to you.

14. Where is the Pre-K program located?

Our main Pre-K program is located at Clough School at 409 Bell Rd. However, we also have outside community providers with slots available. These sites include Rome Catholic School, Kings Kids, Little Learners and Head Start. Please call our office for more information.

15. What if I have more questions about the Pre-K program?

If you have questions about our program you may call Chris Maskell in the main office at 334-1250 or our Parent Liaisons, Jenn Davis 334-1247 or Shelley Razy 334-1257.

16. When is Pre-K registration?

Registration will be held March 1-4 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Clough School on the Early Childhood side of the building. We will also have an evening registration on Thursday, March 3 from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Clough.