



Preschool Exceptional Education Services

There is nothing more important than a child's education. How we instill knowledge, values, and caring in children helps them grow into productive, compassionate, and successful adults.

At [Metro Nashville Public Schools](#), we understand developing the whole child is critical to building a strong learning community. We believe that every student has the ability to succeed, and that inclusive education is the norm and ensures a high-quality education for every student. We strive to provide every student with a learning environment that supports their unique developmental needs and addresses the goals documented in their Individual Education Program (IEP).

In accordance with Tennessee State Law and [Child Find](#), our schools strive to provide every student with exactly the type of learning environment that best meets their needs. However, our capabilities don't end with students. Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) also works with the families of its students. The purpose of Child Find is to identify, locate, and evaluate those who need special education and related services. MNPS offers various preschool program options across Davidson County that provide a welcoming and engaging environment for preschool students with disabilities and their families.

Preschool classrooms and [exceptional education services](#) help equip children by laying the foundation for academic success and lifelong learning through curiosity, inquiry, discovery and joy!

The "Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs," released jointly by the Departments of Education (ED) and Health and Human Services (HHS) on September 14, 2015, ***states that all young children with disabilities should have access to inclusive high-quality early childhood programs, where they are provided with individualized and appropriate support in meeting high expectations.***

MNPS PRE-K PROGRAM SITES

MNPS Exceptional Education services are available in the following locations throughout Davidson County.



Early Learning Centers (ELC)

The ELCs are dedicated Pre-K learning environments in an exclusive early learning setting. *MNPS has four ELCs: Ivanetta H. Davis, Cambridge, Casa Azafrán, and Ross.*



Elementary School-based Classrooms

School-based classrooms are located in elementary schools across the district. School-based classrooms may provide a Pre-K opportunity in a student's zoned school. *MNPS has 155 school-based classrooms across Davidson County.*



Montessori

Montessori classes bring children together in multi-age groups, rather than classes comprised of just one age. Montessori early learning classrooms span three age levels: PS3, Pre-K, and kindergarten. *MNPS has two Montessori programs: Hull Jackson Montessori and Stanford Montessori.*



Head Start Classrooms*

MNPS partners with Head Start to support 3 and 4-year-old students with disabilities in classrooms as seats are available. *Head Start locations: Berry, Douglas, Dudley, North, Richland, Susan Gray and Tom Joy.*

**Head Start is an MNPS Community Partner.*

MNPS EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Students in all program sites are provided a meaningful learning experience with play and discovery implemented through a developmentally appropriate learning curriculum. IEP goals and/or objectives will be targeted and embedded in instruction in a supported educational setting.

Developmental Learning Center (DLC)

The MNPS Department of Exceptional Education provides DLCs, which offers a curriculum based preschool group experience focusing on a student's individualized educational goals. Therapy is embedded into sessions with a focus on articulation, language, and/or cognitive, social, and physical development led by a speech language pathologist and/or special educator as needed. Students will have opportunities to learn and practice social emotional skills through structured play, which can also support Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals.

DLC groups are located across the district in early learning centers and elementary schools. DLC groups provide intensive therapy/service in small group setting on a special schedule to support a child's success. This setting provides students an opportunity to transition from a home to classroom setting.

Itinerant Exceptional Education & Related Services

The MNPS Department of Exceptional Education provides related services (PT, OT, speech-language, etc.) and supports from an exceptional education teacher. Classrooms are located within elementary schools, ELCs, and Head Start centers throughout the district. Pre-K classrooms may have age eligibility requirements and most have 20 students with a general education teacher and paraprofessional. Pre-K classrooms follow a developmentally appropriate curriculum with a focus on kindergarten readiness. Students' IEP services may range from monthly consultation to several sessions a week as dictated by the IEP.

Self-Contained Preschool Services

The MNPS Department of Exceptional Education provides self-contained preschool and Pre-K classrooms for students with disabilities. The self-contained classroom is typically a smaller group of students with a disability, a special education teacher, and at least two paraprofessionals. This setting provides a smaller classroom ratio to support students. Students are provided meaningful learning experiences to target IEP goals and/or objectives through a developmentally appropriate curriculum and/or materials.

Self-contained classrooms are located in elementary schools and early learning centers, and provide students with meaningful opportunities to spend time with typically developing peers throughout the school day.

Blended Preschool Services

The MNPS Department of Exceptional Education provides special education services through Pre-K "blended" classrooms located in elementary schools, early learning centers and Head Start centers across the district. Each classroom is supported by a special education teacher and at least one paraprofessional. Blended classrooms are comprised of typically developing 4-year-old students and 3, 4, or 5-year-old students with a disability. Some blended classrooms may have typically developing 3-year-old peer models. Blended classrooms are a larger class ratio than self-contained classrooms or DLCs.

For additional information on MNPS Exceptional Education Services, please visit the [MNPS Exceptional Education webpage](#) or contact the Exceptional Education Department at (615) 687-4551 or EEquestions@mnps.org.