

## School District Pre-K Determination Guidance

To determine whether or not a pre-k classroom is considered a school district pre-k or a non-school district pre-k, follow the guidelines outlined below.

Any pre-k classroom(s) on a school district's campus are considered part of the school district and must abide by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Accreditation Standards unless the school district is allowing a separate entity to utilize campus space. The separate entity must be licensed or accredited through their corresponding agency.

School district pre-k classrooms must follow district policies, the MDE policies, and the students must be input into the Mississippi Student Information System (MSIS). The MDE policies include Accreditation Standard 17.2, the *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children*, and the MDE's Effectiveness Evaluation Plan. All students in these classrooms must participate in the statewide Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, and the district must hire properly credentialed staff and pay them according to the MDE and district pay scales.

Specific examples of school district pre-k and non-school district pre-k include:

- Staff salaries paid by school district
- Program required to follow school district policies
- Classrooms that utilize spaces not on a district campus that are governed by a district
- Any classroom on a district campus not licensed or accredited by another entity
- Blended Head Start classrooms
- Title I-funded classrooms
- Locally-funded classrooms
- Tuition-based classrooms

School  
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- Child care operating independently from school district with its own director and licensed by the Mississippi Department of Health.
  - The school district does not receive student tuition, does not pay staff salaries, and does not make any decisions regarding the program nor does it require the program to follow its policies.
- Head Start operating independently from school district
  - The school district does not pay staff salaries and does not make any decisions regarding the program nor does it require the program to follow its policies.

Non-  
School  
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Pre-K