



**Chicago Public Schools
Office of Early Childhood Education
Tuition Based Preschool Program**

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the tuition for 2012-2013?** Tuition for the 2012-2013 school year will be \$11,100, exclusive of meals. Meals may be purchased at the school or brought from home.
2. **How do I enroll my child?** Applications are available for the 2012-2013 school year at each Tuition Based Preschool (TBP) site and on the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Web site. Parents should complete the application and submit along with a **non-refundable** tuition deposit of \$585 to the school. The school will notify parents that their child has been accepted into the program after February 1, 2012.
3. **How is tuition paid?** Tuition may be paid in full (two week discount available) or through the SMART Tuition Management System. Payment options include paying by check or money order; online credit and debit options are also available. At the present time, SMART charges a **non-refundable** processing fee of \$43 for using their payment system. For additional information, contact Kineatra Rhea-Thomas via e-mail at kdreah-thomas@cps.k12.il.us or call (773) 553-3137.
4. **What is the program schedule?** The TBP program operates five days per week, 10 hours per day from September to June following the CPS calendar. Each school determines the exact hours of operation.
5. **Does my child have to attend for 10 hours?** No; however, children **are** expected to attend from 9:00 A.M. to 2:45 P.M. each day to receive the full benefit of the instructional program. Hours may vary at individual schools.
6. **Is there a summer program?** No, CPS does not operate summer TBP programs; however, many schools offer their own summer programs for preschoolers or collaborate with neighborhood agencies.
7. **Will participation in the TBP program guarantee a place for my child in the school's kindergarten?**
No, unless this is your assigned neighborhood elementary school.
8. **What is the class size?** Each TBP classroom must have a minimum of 20 students with an early childhood certified teacher and two teacher assistants.
9. **What is the curriculum?** Most TBP programs use the *Blueprint for Literacy Curriculum* which offers techniques and strategies that teachers may use to promote literacy, including reading aloud, storytelling, talking, and singing.
10. **What are the enrollment requirements?** Children must be at least three (3) but not yet five (5) years old on or before September 1, 2012, and must be toilet trained when the program begins in September 2012; however, children with an IEP indicating a need for toileting assistance **are eligible** for enrollment if the program meets the requirement of the IEP.
11. **My child may not be ready for kindergarten; may my child remain in the program an additional year?**
No, children who are five years old on or before September 1 of the current year may not participate in the TBP program.
12. **My child will be three years old after September 1, 2012; can my child be enrolled for that year?**
No, children must be at least three (3) years old on or before September 1, 2012.
13. **Where can I get more information?** For more information about the TBP program, please contact Bonnie K. Roelle, Director of the Tuition Based Preschool and Preschool for All Programs, via e-mail at broelle@cps.k12.il.us, or Beatrice Colón, TBP Liaison, at bacolon@cps.k12.il.us. You may also call (773) 534-3846.

