



4K

Two Rivers School District

Q&A about 4-year-old Kindergarten!

What is 4-year-old kindergarten?

4-year-old kindergarten (4K) is an optional early learning program for children who are four years old by September 1 of any given year. 4K is regulated by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and partially funded by the state of Wisconsin. More than two-thirds of Wisconsin school districts offer or are preparing to offer four-year-old kindergarten. The Two Rivers School District is among them.

Why does Wisconsin support the education of four-year-olds?

Over the past decade, learning programs for young children have become a central strategy in efforts to improve educational achievement and opportunity. In 2006, 40 states had state-funded pre-kindergarten programs. There is more and more evidence to support the benefit of developmentally appropriate education before kindergarten.

If my child turns 4 years old in August, can I wait for one more year and enroll my child in 4K the following year?

The Two Rivers School District has determined that the 4K program will provide services for children that are 4 years of age. Children that are not 4 years of age by September 1st will not be allowed to participate in the program that year. Students that will be turning 5 years of age before September 1st will be directed to the district kindergarten program. The 4K program is voluntary and parents can choose to not send their 4-year-old child if they feel the program is not right for that child.

Where will Two Rivers 4K programs take place?

The Two Rivers 4-year-old Kindergarten sites include:

- Creative Learning
- Good Shepherd
- Head Start (St. Peter the Fisherman School)
- Koenig Elementary School
- Tiny Treasures

Can I choose where my child will attend 4-year-old Kindergarten?

Parents will be given three site choices when they register their child for 4-year-old kindergarten. The Two Rivers School District will try to honor parent choice whenever possible. Three criteria will be used to determine where a child attends 4K programming. The three criteria include:

1. Parents who already have a child at a site for child care or preschool programming will be given an opportunity to keep their child at that site.
2. Parent site preference
2. Location of the child's residence vs. the location of the 4K site

An effort will be made to keep a balanced enrollment at each of the 4K sites, with no sites having more than 17 children with 1 teacher and 1 teacher assistant.

Who will make the final decision regarding placement in the 4K program?

The final placement decision is with the Two Rivers School District.

Will bussing be available for my child?

Bussing will be provided for all students in the 4K program who need it. A recent survey indicated that approximately 50% of parents would transport their 4-year-old child to school; while approximately 50% of the students indicated that they would need transportation. Regardless of survey results, transportation will be made available to all 4-year-olds who need it regardless of their distance from the school they attend.

When and how long will the 4-year-old children be in school?

The Two Rivers 4-year-old kindergarten program will meet 4 days per week (Monday – Thursday) for 3 hours and 15 minutes per day. This amount of time will meet the state's requirement of 437.5 hours of school per year. We offer morning and afternoon 4-year-old kindergarten sessions.

Will the 4K program be the same at each site?

Each 4K site has a DPI certified teacher who has been trained in the use of Creative Curriculum. 4K teachers are given some liberty in regard to when and how the curriculum is delivered. However, each site is required to tie their curriculum to the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards. The Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards provides guidance in regard to developmentally appropriate activities for 4 year olds. All 4K teachers will be trained in the use of Creative Curriculum which is designed to address the educational needs of 4-year-old children. In addition, all sites operate with the same outcome expectations. We expect children, regardless of the site, to achieve the same outcomes by the conclusion of the school year.

Does 4K push children academically or teach them to read?

The 4K curriculum is based on play in a rich environment. Rather than emphasizing academics, 4K supports children's normal growth and development. Children will work on skills such as:

- Observing or the ability to notice specific things in nature and to understand what other people are doing.
- Listening, knowing what sounds mean, and being able to repeat sounds.
- Following directions in order to accomplish simple tasks and knowing left from right.

- Classifying and sorting items by shape, color, size, etc. and the ability to tell why objects are similar or different.
- Remembering and talking about recent activities and being able to play games that require memory skills.
- Creating and playing pretend games.
- Cooperating and understanding how to work with others without being overly competitive.

Will all sites provide support for children with developmental delays or special education needs?

All sites will follow the special education protocol that is in place for the Two Rivers School District. If a child enters the 4K program without a special education diagnosed disability but exhibits developmental delays, the partner site is expected to hold a building consultation team (BCT) meeting to discuss the needs of the student. Two Rivers School District personnel resources will be available to facilitate the process (eg., Early Childhood Teacher, Speech Therapists, School Psychologist, etc.). Evaluation for special education will be initiated based on the student's needs and/or response to intervention.

Will centers accept children who live in another school district?

Four year olds who reside outside of the school district will be able to follow the Open Enrollment process *only if their home district offers a 4-year-old kindergarten program.*

What if I have questions?

For more information, please call Chad Bauknecht, 4K Coordinator at 793-1118.

If you would like this information translated into Spanish/Hmong, please call:

**Si usted necesita esta informacion traducida al Espanol, por favor llame al 793-4560.
Yog koj xav tau ib daim txhais ua lus Hmoob, thov hu Hmoob Tus Xov Tooj, 793-4560.**