



Chariho Regional School District  
Charlestown, Richmond, Hopkinton

## **Preschool Program Enrollment Process and Tuition**

### **PURPOSE:**

This process provides enrollment requirements, a description of community peer selection, and tuition rates for The Chariho Regional School District's inclusive preschool program for "typically developing peers." All three and four-year-old typically developing peers have equal access to apply for enrollment.

### **PHILOSOPHY:**

Research supports the benefits of including "typically developing peers" in an intensive preschool program with children with disabilities. Both groups benefit from the preschool program, with both groups having demonstrable gains in development, social and attitudinal outcomes.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**Typically developing peer:** A typically developing peer is defined as a child with behavior, intellectual ability, and functional skills that the Chariho Regional School District would "typically" see in children their age. For this process, a typically developing peer is any child who is not receiving special education services from an early childhood special educator.

**Inclusive preschool program:** An inclusive preschool program is one in which children with disabilities and typically developing peers participate in all learning and social activities together. Individual accommodations, evidence-based services, and support foster development, peer friendships, and a sense of belonging.

**CHIP (Chariho Intervention Program):** This is a regular education preschool. Children in this program have been identified as being "at risk." Children are referred to the CHIP program through Child Outreach. Children in this program may have IEPs for Speech/Language Impairment. Children may have been identified as having social, emotional, or behavioral

problems based on the Child Outreach Screening, and it is felt that a child needs to be monitored for growth through a school-based program. Many children in the program have been referred to the district by Early Intervention and have Speech/Language Impairments.

**Children with disabilities:** These children have been identified through Child Outreach or Early Intervention and have gone through the special education referral process. They have cognitive needs requiring specialized instruction and related services. The IEP team that has evaluated the child places the child in the program. Children in this program are eligible for bus transportation to and from school. The least restrictive environment (LRE) is considered for these children before placing them in the integrated program.

### **Procedure**

The Chariho Regional School District shall have openings in its preschool classrooms each school year for typically developing peers. The programs shall be supported by teachers certified in both Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education.

Children participating in the classrooms shall include both children with disabilities and typically developing peers. Any typically developing peer vacancies shall be filled on a first-come, first-service basis.

Once a child has been chosen for the preschool program, the child shall be eligible to participate until the child reaches kindergarten age, as long as tuition payments are up-to-date and the process is followed. Transportation is not provided for typically developing peers.

### **Enrollment requirements:**

The child must be a Charlestown, Richmond, Hopkinton resident (proof of residency is required).

The child must be three years old by September 1st of the school year in which the child wishes to enroll.

The parent/guardian must complete a registration packet within one month of notification of acceptance.

The child must have completed or scheduled a Child Outreach Screening prior to starting the program.

The parent/guardian must review and sign the Chariho Regional School District's tuition payment agreement.

### **Enrollment:**

Vacancies shall be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis.

**Tuition:**

The current tuition for typically developing peers is \$120 a month for a 3-day program, \$160 a month for a 4-day program, and \$200 a month for a 5-day program. This amount is subject to change if the School Committee votes to raise the tuition. The Chariho Regional School District's preschool program is typically held from 3-5 days a week for two and a half (2.5) hours. The preschool program follows the Chariho Regional School District's calendar. Preschool shall not be in session during school vacations, school holidays, early release days, and school cancellations.

Chariho Regional School District reserves the right to terminate a child's enrollment in the preschool program if the tuition payments are more than two months overdue.