

2026-2027 PreKindergarten Program Plan

Ed Law 3602-e(8) requires State-Administered prekindergarten programs to provide a prekindergarten program plan identifying specific goals, including how the district will expand its program to assure that all eligible children may be served, and a proposed timetable for the implementation and achievement of such goals. Such plan must be approved by the Board of Education.

Menands currently has one UPK classroom that serves 18 students. The limitations in space keep us from serving more children directly through the school district and/or eligible agencies. The district will continue to assess space needs and consider opportunities to expand access in future capital projects.

Menands school currently utilizes Creative Curriculum, which is a comprehensive and research-based preschool curriculum that is both age and developmentally appropriate. The classroom also utilizes Eureka Squared for math, and Heggerty and Foundations to supplement literacy instruction. Professional staff strive to plan lessons and activities that are learner-centered. Materials and curriculum resources will be evaluated on an ongoing basis throughout the school year.

Menands School ensures continuity in the program with instruction in the early grades by including the prekindergarten classroom in all school-wide activities at the primary level throughout the school year. Additionally, our prekindergarten staff work with kindergarten teachers on an annual basis to screen, assess, and build relationships with transitioning students.

Menands School encourages students with disabilities and Emergent Multilingual Learners to register and be integrated into the prekindergarten program whenever possible. The Coordinator of Pupil Personnel Services will share relevant information about these learners on an ongoing basis throughout the school year.

Menands School ensures that all staff are certified and meet the qualifications set forth pursuant to the rules of the Board of Regents. This is completed on an annual basis, or whenever there is a vacant position that needs to be filled.

Menands School works to form strong family and community partnerships and involvement in the prekindergarten program. When possible, families are invited in throughout the school year for classroom/building level activities. Additionally, our prekindergarten teacher communicates with families on a daily basis at arrival/dismissal. Strengthening family and community partnerships is something that will be evaluated on an ongoing basis throughout the school year.

Menands School provides professional development and training for staff and teachers during Superintendent conference days, teacher/faculty meetings, and additional opportunities throughout the school year.

Menands School has established a lottery to select eligible children to receive prekindergarten program services on a random selection basis. The lottery is held in May, and students who will be four years old by December 1st of that year and are fully registered prior to the lottery can participate. Students who are not selected in the lottery are placed on a waitlist in the event that spots open up throughout the school year. The method for selection will be evaluated on an annual basis.

Kindergarten teachers at Menands School meet with the prekindergarten teacher each spring to discuss data from the GOLD assessment in the following areas: physical, social-emotional, language, and cognition. Additionally, to assist with the transition into kindergarten, Menands School schedules kindergarten warm-up week each year at the end of August. This gives students the opportunity to ride the bus, meet their teacher, and become familiar with the classroom environment. The last day of Kindergarten warm-up week, families have to come in for a meet and greet with their child's teacher. Kindergarten warm-up week has been a practice for many years, but will continue to be evaluated on a yearly basis.