



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

LTC # 358-2024

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Honorable Mayor Steven Meiner and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager 

DATE: August 21, 2024

SUBJECT: **City of Miami Beach Information Sessions for Prekindergarten Scholarship Program Interested Families 2025-2026**

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to update you on the status of the City of Miami Beach's Prekindergarten (PreK) Scholarship Program for Miami Beach residents for the 2025-2026 school year and share program feedback from this past school year. The Prekindergarten Scholarship Program expands hourly access to high-quality PreK providers with a scholarship of up to \$3,000.

As the application for eligible and interested families for the 2025-2026 school year will open on September 9, 2024, family informational sessions will be held via Zoom on the following dates and times (attachment A):

September 9, 2024	12 PM (English)	1 PM (Espanol)
September 10, 2024	6 PM (English)	7 PM (Espanol)
September 12, 2024	12 PM (English)	1 PM (Espanol)
September 16, 2024	11 AM (English)	12 PM (Espanol)

Zoom Webinar link: <https://tinyurl.com/5xazj5vw>

Meeting ID: 574 796 9101 Passcode: 2oyB5P

Or by telephone (929) 205-6099 Passcode: 401682

Family applications may be submitted on the City's website beginning **Monday, September 9, 2024** at www.miamibeachfl.gov/prek, which provides an overview of the program and eligibility criteria. The deadline for family application submission is December 2, 2024. A computerized lottery process will be held on December 6, 2024, which will establish a numerical order of service until all funds are exhausted for up to 192 families. Results from the lottery will be posted on the City's website including name, confirmation number, and lottery number. Staff from the Office of Education and Performance Initiatives will contact family applicants in order of selection to determine eligibility.

At the culmination of the 2023-2024 academic school year, the City of Miami Beach families who had received a PreK scholarship were surveyed to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. The findings revealed:

- 100% very satisfied / satisfied with the application process for the PreK Scholarship Program
- 100% strongly agreed / agreed that the City's Education team communicated their child's application status in a timely manner
- 92% strongly agreed / agreed that the PreK website is easy to navigate
- 96% strongly agreed / agreed that the results of the lottery were clearly communicated
- 100% strongly agreed / agreed monthly invoicing to providers was easy to review and approve

Families provided the following additional comments:


- This is a great program that allows for parents to keep their kids at school, instead of at home hooked on technology, while learning and sharing with friends. It is a way to encourage and promote higher reading skills once Kinder begins, therefore closing the assessment result gap between students of different socioeconomic backgrounds
- Great program keep it up! Hopefully, you can get more funding to help more families it really is so helpful for parents and the future generation! The program quality was amazing as well.
- Thank you very much for this program. It's really helpful and makes a financial difference and impact for many families.
- Excellent program, well-run. We are very grateful to have this support!
- Lottery was easy and accessible

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Leslie Rosenfeld, Chief Education and Performance Officer.

Attachment:

Miami Beach Prekindergarten Scholarship Program Information Sessions for Families (Attachment A)

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JDG / LDR

ATTACHMENT A

Miami Beach Prekindergarten Program - Information Sessions for Families

**Programa Prekindergarten de la
Ciudad de Miami Beach – Sesiones
Informativas para las Familias**

The City of Miami Beach has approved a Prekindergarten Scholarship Program for the 2025-26 school year that will provide eligible **Miami Beach families with a Pre-K scholarship of up to \$3,000.**

*La ciudad de Miami Beach ha aprobado un programa de becas para Prekindergarten para el año escolar 2025-26 que otorgará a las **familias elegibles de Miami Beach una beca de PreK de hasta \$3,000.***



MIAMIBEACH PREK Program

Application deadline:
December 2, 2024
Fecha límite para someter la solicitud.

Family application:
www.miamibeachfl.gov/prek
Formulario de solicitud para las familias.

*Miami Beach residents only
(33139, 33140, and 33141)
*Solo para residentes de Miami Beach.

MIAMIBEACH www.miamibeachfl.gov

Eligible PreK families are invited to partake in one of the following sessions*

Monday, September 9, 2024 • 12PM • 1PM (Español)
Monday, September 10, 2024 • 6PM • 7PM (Español)
Wednesday, September 12, 2024 • 12PM • 1PM (Español)
Thursday, September 16, 2024 • 11AM • 12PM (Español)

Invitamos a las familias que califiquen a participar en una de las sesiones informativas.*

Zoom Webinar link / Enlace de Zoom:
<https://tinyurl.com/5xazj5vw>

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For alternate format or ADA accommodations, please call 305.604.2489 and select 1 for English or 2 for Spanish, then option 6; TTY users may call via 711 (Florida Relay Service).
Para solicitar un formato alternativo, o asistencia relacionada con una discapacidad, llame al 305.604.2489 opción 2 para Español, y opción 6; usuarios de TTY pueden llamar a través del 711 (Servicio de retransmisión de la Florida).