



The Friendship School

Frequently Asked Questions

24 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385
(860) 447-4049
www.thefriendshipschool.org

What is The Friendship School?

The Friendship School is a leading magnet school for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten aged children in Connecticut that partners with families to foster kindness and a life-long love of learning through exploration, curiosity, and leadership.

What is a magnet school?

A magnet school is a public school option for families. Magnet schools are designed to bring students from different communities and backgrounds together for their education. Magnet schools create diverse learning environments for students and offer specialized curriculum such as Science, Technology, or Arts.

Enrollment

Who can attend The Friendship School?

Beginning in September 2017, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten aged children who reside in any Connecticut community are eligible to attend the school.

How do parents/caregivers enroll their child?

Do parents/caregivers living in Waterford or New London need to fill out an application in order for their child to attend the school?

Yes. All parents/ caregivers must complete an online application in order for their child to attend. If there are more applications received than seats available, a lottery will be held. Children will be selected randomly through the lottery. To submit an application, visit www.goodwinchoice.com.

Is there a fee to attend The Friendship School?

Perhaps. Beginning in September 2017, even though The Friendship School is a public school, a new CT law states that parents/caregivers of pre-kindergarten aged children will pay a fee depending on family size and income. This fee will not exceed \$400.00 per month per child from September 1 to June 30. Parents/caregivers will need to complete an income survey once their child is accepted to the school. Families will be informed as soon as possible if they must pay the \$400.00 per month tuition fee.

The New London Board of Education is analyzing the costs of paying these fees for New London families. Once the analysis is complete and a determination is made, New London families will be notified. This information should be available by mid-February.

If a parent/caregiver's child already attends the school, do they need to fill out an application?

If a child currently attends the school and the parent/caregiver would like that child to continue to attend in the 2017/18 school year, the parent/caregiver must complete a seat reservation form and return it to the school by March 31st. Forms are available in The Friendship School office.

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The Boards of Education for New London and Waterford are analyzing the costs of paying these fees for New London and Waterford families with children already enrolled in the school. Once the analysis is complete and a determination is made, families will be notified. This information should be available by mid-February.

If a child is receiving services through the Birth to Three system and has an IFSP, is that child able to attend The Friendship School when s/he turns three?

All children are eligible to apply to the school if they will be three by September 30. As a public school, The Friendship School adheres to state and federal regulations. Special education is available at the school through an integrated and inclusive approach. Parents/caregivers should work with their Birth to Three service provider and their school district special education office to determine through the PPT and transition process if the school is an appropriate educational environment for their child. We encourage everyone to submit an application and then work through the process should the child be selected through the lottery.



School Info

What are the school's hours of operation?

The school opens at 9:30 a.m. and has a 3:45 p.m. dismissal.

Does The Friendship School provide transportation?

The Friendship School does not provide transportation to or from the school. New London and Waterford school districts do transport students who reside in their towns to The Friendship School.

Is there care before and after school?

Is there care in the summer?

Yes. Please inquire in the school office (860) 447-4049 for information about before/after and summer care.

Next Steps

When will families be notified if their child has been accepted to the school?

Parents/caregivers will be notified by mid-April if their child is accepted into the school.

Who can people call if they have questions?

Please call The Friendship School office at (860) 447-4049 or Lisa Cooney, LEARN's Development Department at (860) 434-4800, ext. 165.

Can people visit the school?

Yes. To make an appointment to visit the school, call (860) 447-4049.

Check our website www.thefriendshipschool.org for tour dates.



TFS is administered
by LEARN