

## Pre-Kindergarten Program Recruitment and Selection

Early childhood education is an integrated system designed to ensure that *each* child receives a healthy start and attains the skills and concepts to have a successful academic experience in developmentally appropriate programs. School districts must establish a process to select eligible students to receive UPK services. When there are more eligible applicants than can be served in a given year the district must select students on a random basis.

### Introduction

Economically disadvantaged children means a child whose family is eligible for some form of assistance such as:

- Aid to Families of Dependent Children
- Free or Reduced School Lunch
- Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Unemployment Compensation
- Disability Compensation

### Selection

The following criteria will be considered when selecting students other than the 80% designated as economically disadvantaged:

- 1) Applications will be ranked according to income (lowest to highest)
- 2) Consideration will be given to students and families with one or more of the following circumstances:
  - a) Foster children
  - b) Child with disabilities\*
  - c) Single parent households
  - d) Teenage parents
  - e) Premature births
  - f) Non-English speaking households

*\*The Committee on Preschool Special Education of Chenango Valley places children in Pre-Kindergarten as a least restrictive environment whenever possible. Enrollment of students with disabilities, where possible, shall approximate the district's ratio of children with disabilities who are presently in integrated settings.*

The CPSE Chairperson shall be notified should a vacancy occur. If the district's ratio has not been achieved, the child with a disability will have preference. If an enrolled child is referred to the CPSE after September 1, the student may remain in the Pre-Kindergarten program if the CPSE determines that the placement continues to be appropriate. Any transfer to a more restrictive program must be documented.

Eligibility of students will be determined using the following criteria:

- 1) Conference with and/or referrals from:
  - a. School Social Workers
  - b. Registered Nurses
  - c. Head Start
- 2) Free & Reduced Lunch applications and approvals
- 3) School-wide registration information
- 4) Recruitment information included in the district's newsletter