



**Amherst County Public Schools, Lyn-CAG Head Start, and Ready Regions Southside  
Preschool Programs  
Application for 2024 – 2025**

Families of three and four year olds in Amherst County have opportunities to apply and be considered for three types of preschool programs. Each program is described below.

**Program 1: Amherst County Public Schools Smart Start Program:** ACPS Smart Start programs are free, based on eligibility requirements; full-day preschool programs that meet all Virginia State Standards for preschool education for four year olds. Children must be 4 on or before September 30, 2024. There is no cost for breakfast, lunch, and snack. All school supplies are provided. Transportation is available. Classes are located at Amherst Elementary School and Madison Heights Elementary School.

**Program 2: Head Start:** Lyn-CAG Head Start works together with Amherst County Public Schools. The programs they provide are free based on eligibility requirements; full-day preschool programs that meet the National Head Start Performance Standards and are licensed by the Virginia Department of Education. These classes are available for eligible 3-and 4-year-old children. Head Start supports and nurtures the whole family by providing resources, parenting classes and provides each family with a family service worker. There is no cost for breakfast, lunch, and snacks. All school supplies are provided. Parents must bring their children and sign in and out of the program daily. Drop off is from 7:30 am -8:00 am and pick up is at 2:30 pm. Head Start locations are at Amherst Elementary School and Madison Heights Elementary School.

**Program 3: Mixed Delivery:** Three and four year olds may also be eligible for a free program through the VA Ready Regions Mixed Delivery grant. This places children in preschool programs through private childcare centers located within Amherst County. Currently, this program is available at Amelon Early Learning Center located on Dillard Road in Madison Heights. A limited number of slots are available to eligible families. Before and after care options are available. Transportation is not provided.

All information provided in this application is collected and reviewed/stored in a confidential manner. This information is used to determine eligibility for the Smart Start preschool program (Program 1), Lyn-CAG Head Start (Program 2), and Mixed Delivery (Program 3).

**Amherst County Public Schools, Lyn-CAG Head Start, and Ready Regions Southside work closely together to ensure families are offered choices and find the best fit for their child. The next three questions address the available options for parents to consider. If your child is found eligible for one or more programs, you will be contacted to discuss all available options in order to make an informed choice.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to apply for any of the 3 programs noted above (ACPS Smart Start, Lyn-CAG Head Start, or Mixed Delivery through Ready Regions Southside).

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to **only** apply for the ACPS Smart Start Program (Option 1 above).

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to **only** apply for the Lyn-CAG Head Start program (Option 2 above). If choosing this option and you would like assistance applying online rather than completing this paper application, please go to <https://lyncagkidz.org/lyn-cag-head-start>.

Child's Name:	Date of Birth:
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Gender: M or F (circle one)	Race:
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Name of Custodial Parent/Guardian applying for child: _____	Primary language spoken in the home? <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Other
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Physical address of student:		
Street _____	City _____	State, Zip Code _____

Name of Custodial Parent/Guardian applying for child: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Father	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/> Foster Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent
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E-mail	Home	Work	Cell

Highest level of education completed by the legal guardian?		
<input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma	<input type="checkbox"/> Two year degree completed after high school	<input type="checkbox"/> Did not complete high school or GED
<input type="checkbox"/> GED	<input type="checkbox"/> Four year Bachelor's degree	
<input type="checkbox"/> Trade school	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Number of people in the household:		
Children	Adults	Total

Name of second legal guardian _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Father	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/> Foster Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent
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Address of second legal guardian _____	Phone Number of second legal guardian _____
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Name of Emergency Contact _____	Phone Number: _____
Relationship: _____	

Does your child currently have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)? Y or N (circle one)  
 If your child does have an IEP, is he/she attending an early childhood special education preschool? Y or N (circle one)

If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Is your child currently enrolled in a daycare or preschool program? Y or N (circle one)

Is your child currently enrolled in Head Start? Y or N (circle one)

**Is your family currently receiving any of the following forms of income and/or assistance?  
(Check all that apply).**

<input type="checkbox"/> TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)	<input type="checkbox"/> SSI(Supplemental Security Income)	<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment Benefits
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Support	<input type="checkbox"/> VA Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> Food Stamps (SNAP)
<input type="checkbox"/> WIC (Women, Infants, & Children)	<input type="checkbox"/> Alimony/Spousal Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Security	<input type="checkbox"/> Rental Income	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Do any of the following situations apply to your family? (Check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Homeless or living in shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> Living with relatives or others due to loss of housing or economic hardship	<input type="checkbox"/> Disabled parent/legal guardian
<input type="checkbox"/> Unsafe or unhealthy environment	<input type="checkbox"/> Child's father does not have a high school diploma or GED	<input type="checkbox"/> Child's mother does not have high school diploma or GED
<input type="checkbox"/> Child's mother or father is on active military deployment	<input type="checkbox"/> Child's mother or father is currently incarcerated	
<input type="checkbox"/> Single parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Child is being raised by grandparents or other family members.	<input type="checkbox"/> Child is a foster child
<input type="checkbox"/> Child has limited English	<input type="checkbox"/> In need of emergency shelter/food	<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer to speak with someone about this in person rather than disclose on this form

**Income/Residency/Age verification**

An income verification must be completed in person within a week of submitting this application. To complete, we will need all information requested.

Please deliver in person the following:

\*proof of residency ( electric bill, cable bill, water bill, trash bill, phone bill, or lease agreement)

\*the completed application, if not completed electronically,

\*a copy of the most recent tax returns, W-2 forms, or pay stubs for ALL parents or legal guardians of the child living in the household.

\*Proof of child's birthdate (Birth Certificate)

Verification of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), or SSI (Supplemental Security Income) can also be provided instead of tax returns, W-2 forms, or pay stubs.

To Mail:

Amherst County Public Schools  
Attention: Smart Start Program  
P.O. Box 1257  
Amherst, VA 24521

To Deliver in person:

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.  
School Administration Building/Instructional Office  
153 Washington Street  
Amherst, VA 24521

If you are interested in sending this information through a confidential electronic manner, please call:  
Call 434-946-9341 for support.

- I understand that if accepted into this program, I am required to participate in parental involvement activities. This may include parent conferences, workshops, school activities, and/or home visits.

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If accepted into the ACPS Smart Start program (Program 1), how do you wish for your child to be transported to the ACPS program?

- I will transport my child by car.  
 My child will ride a bus.

If a bus rider, please list the address of the pickup/drop off location

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

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Use this space to provide any additional information you feel we need to know about your child and family.

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I certify that all of information included in this application is true and correct and that all income is reported (if submitted). I understand that if any of this information changes, I am obligated to notify the program immediately. I understand that the school/program will receive state funds based on the information I give. I understand that deliberate misrepresentation of any of this information may disqualify my child from being considered for the programs described within the application.

I understand that this application will serve to meet the needs of my family through available public and/or private providers; and, based on my eligibility, will support my family in securing childcare/preschool services for my child. I understand that all of my child's and family's personal information will be handled respectfully and confidentially.

I understand and give permission for ACPS to communicate with Lyn-CAG Head Start if my child has been attending a Lyn-CAG Head Start class located in Amherst County to ensure coordination of services.

I understand that completing this application does not guarantee my child's placement in the preschool program.

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(Date)

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

Please call our office at 434-946-9341 if you have any questions regarding this application.

Amherst County Public Schools, Lyn-CAG Head Start, and Ready Regions Southside does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, or handicapping conditions in its educational programs or employment practices. All information provided is collected and reviewed/stored in a confidential manner. This information is used to determine eligibility for the Smart Start Pre-K program, the Lyn-CAG Head Start program, or the Mixed Delivery program.