

Preschool For All Program (PFA)

(information obtained directly from ISBE Preschool For All Manual)

Per the state of Illinois, the information below describes a high-quality preschool program within the parameters of Preschool for All funding.

Screening

The screening process identifies the most at-risk students in the state of Illinois and individual districts. District 94 has developed procedures that screen all children and their families to determine their need for services. Screenings are conducted throughout the school year for all resident families that have a child that is three or four years of age at the time of the screening. The screening is a global look at the child's preschool skills. Further assessment may be recommended for children with skill deficits identified at the time of screening.

Eligibility Criteria

The PFA is designed for children ages 3 through 5 who are not age eligible for kindergarten (i.e., age 5 on or before September 1 of the school year in which the early childhood program is to be implemented) and deemed eligible via multiple weighted at-risk factors. Eligibility determinations are based on local need to identify children at risk of academic failure.

According to the state of Illinois,

at-risk children are those who, because of their home and community environment, are subject to such language, cultural, economic, and like disadvantages to be at risk of academic failure. A disproportionate share of all children considered to be at risk come from low-income families, including low-income working families, homeless families, families where English is not the primary language spoken in the home, or families where one or both parents are teenagers or have not completed high

school. Children who are youth in care or meet homeless criteria are prioritized as most at risk on the weighted eligibility criteria.

Recruitment, Enrollment & Records Child Find

Komarek School has screenings throughout the school year to address Child Find and recruitment requirements. Screening dates are posted on the school website and local newspapers. The enrollment may change as the target population may be different from year-to-year. The PFA grant limits full enrollment to 20 students per class.

Komarek has one morning and one afternoon section. Spots cannot be held for any student who has not been screened. Screening begins when the child turns three years old. Any students not accepted into the program are placed on a wait list. Student placement on this list is based on scores obtained via the screening process. As recommended by the state of Illinois, these scores are based on four domains: Established Risk Factors, Biological Risk Factors, Environmental Risk Factors and Social-Emotional/Behavioral Risk Factors.

Any further questions regarding the Preschool For All Program may be directed to

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Complete documentation regarding this program can be found on the ISBE website.

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Preschool-For-All.aspx>