

CRCSD Alternative Kindergarten 2026-2027

What is Alternative Kindergarten?

The Alternative Kindergarten (AK) program is a full-day option designed to give students additional time to develop foundational academic, social, and emotional skills before entering traditional kindergarten. This extra year helps build confidence and readiness for long-term success in school.

Your student must be turning 5 years old between June 1st and September 15th of the new school year. Interested students will be screened to determine eligibility for the program.



Non Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Cedar Rapids Community School District not to discriminate in educational programs and/or activities on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, gender identity, socioeconomic status, national origin, religion, disability, age (except for permitting/prohibiting students to engage in certain activities) or genetic information and in employment opportunities on the basis of age, race, creed, color, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability or genetic information. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact Darius Ballard, Educational Leadership and Support Center, 2500 Edgewood Rd NW, Cedar Rapids, IA, (319) 558-2000. Updated 6/2023



What to Expect

Our Alternative Kindergarten program follows the CRCSD K-12 calendar and the normal elementary school hours (8:50 AM – 3:50 PM) The program is designed to:

- Support early learners at vary rates of development.
- Emphasize growth through both structures and play-based learning.
- Build foundational skills in literacy and math.
- Provide a mix of teacher-directed and child-selected activities
- Support social-emotional growth through positive guidance and consistent expectations.

Key Features

- Small and large group activities to promote collaboration and confidence.
- Instruction tailored to each child's individual pace and learning style.
- A focus on building self-control, independence, and responsibility.
- An emphasis on curiosity, creativity, and problem solving.

Alternative Kindergarten Locations 2026-2027

Location information coming soon



How to Enroll

- If your student is new to CRCSD you will need to complete a [new Kindergarten student registration](#) online. During that process, you will indicate your interest in the Alternative Kindergarten program.
- You will be prompted to schedule a screening for your student. Your child **MUST** be signed up for a screening to qualify for our Alternative Kindergarten program. Screening for interested students typically takes place in the spring.
- After the screening, families are contacted via email with more information on whether their student qualifies or not. For more information contact 319-558-2375