
Update on PreK



DURHAM
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 12, 2026 / Joint Meeting of the Board of Education and Board of County Commissioners



For 2025 - 26,
30 out of 32
elementary schools with
at least one type of
PreK program



**Whitted
PreK Center**



81
total PreK
classrooms
in **2025 - 2026**



35
PreK
General



28
EC PreK
Separate



18
Montessori
PreK



126 Montessori PreK



266 Exceptional Children's Separate Programs
(Autistic, Developmental Needs,
Hearing Impaired,

Group (Speech/Language, OT, PT)



541 General Education PreK
(Title I, NC PreK,
Durham PreK and EC Inclusion)



933

Total PreK Enrollment

(effective 4/28/2026)



PreK Classroom Overview



Student Qualifications:



Title 1 Criteria



Exceptional Children's Program



DPK / NC Pre-K

22 Classrooms Operating at 80% - 100% Capacity

✓ 16 at 100%

✓ 6 at 83-94%

Classrooms Below 80% Capacity

The Whitted School and
6 Elementary School Classrooms

Exceptional Children PreK

Due to Child Find, students are
evaluated & placed throughout the year.





OUTREACH

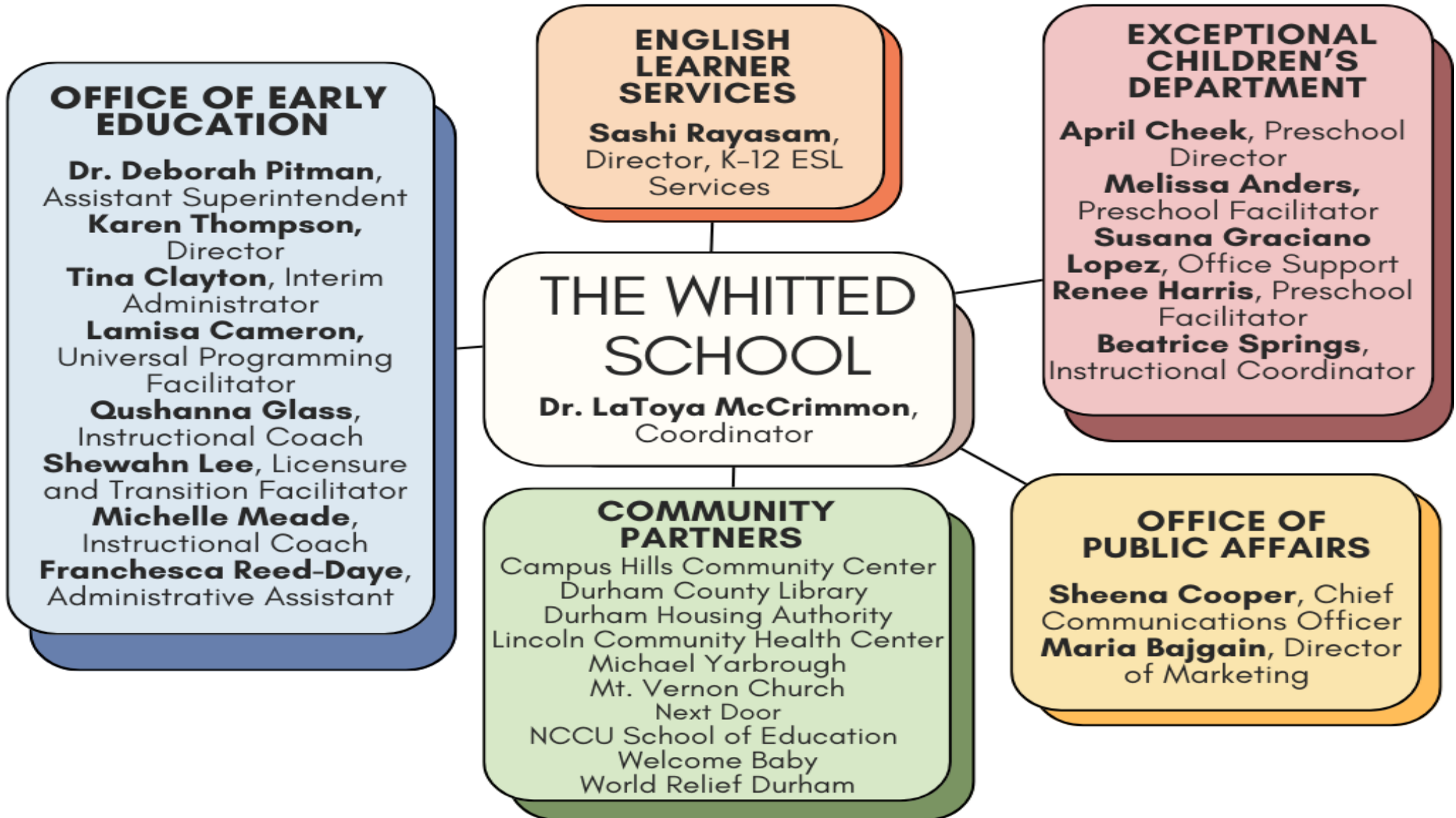
About The Whitted School



- Only dedicated preschool facility in Durham Public Schools
- Eight classrooms: Six general education inclusion + two exceptional children's program
- 5 STAR licensed facility
- Licensed teachers and instructional assistants who are trained in early childhood education
- Full day program (7:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.) with the option of wraparound care until 5:30 p.m.
- The program is free / low cost for many families depending on income.



Cross-Collaboration Enrollment, Marketing & Outreach Team





Community Outreach March – May 2026

- **March:** Dr. LaToya McCrimmon for a feature article
“The Whitted School: Academic Offerings and Nurturing Care for Preschoolers”
- **March 7:** Durham Public Schools Job Fair
- **March 17:** Superintendent Lewis Backpack Giveaway
- **April 10:** Welcome Baby Events in Partnership with Durham Pre-K
- **April 11:** Roll Up and Enroll
- **April 30:** Whitted School Spring Festival and Open House
- **May 4:** Enrollment at Countdown to Kindergarten @ Museum of Life and Science
- **Ongoing:** Whitted School Tours



Marketing Efforts

- Weekly SPARK Newsletter Announcements
- DPS Social Media Announcements (Facebook, Instagram)
- DPS Website Articles
- Whitted Promotional Video
- External Social Media Announcements (Nextdoor)
- Flyer Distribution to Community Partners
- Informational Event for Prospective Families

DURHAM
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHITTED SCHOOL SEATS AVAILABLE!

Our experienced teachers and engaging curriculum offer children the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing environment.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- ✓ Hours: 7:45 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
- ✓ Afterschool care available until 5:30 p.m.
- ✓ Enrollment for children age 4 by Aug. 31, 2025
- ✓ Fee may be charged based on income

MORE INFORMATION

1210 Sawyer St., Durham, 27707
919-560-9492
<https://www.dpsnc.net/o/whittedschool>

Join a five-star early education program!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

APPLY NOW!

<https://www.durhamprek.org>
833-773-5338



Moving Forward ...

- Continuous program advertising
- Staying connected with partners throughout the Universal Application Process
- Exploring additional wrap care options
- Proactive outreach to families at the time of each offer
- Engagement with families upon acceptance and placement
- Monitoring under-enrolled programs
- Tracking and monitoring enrollment



DISCUSSION