



Enrollment & Tuition Overview (2026–27)

We're thrilled that you're considering Bellwether for your child. Below you will find an overview of enrollment options, tuition, and other related considerations and enrollment requirements. As always, if you have any additional questions, please reach out to us at info@bellwetherschool.org.

Our Approach to Education

The Bellwether School is a participating Vermont Universal PreKindergarten partner. We follow an emergent curriculum that is rooted in a Holistic, child-centered, play based approach. Our curriculum aligns with the Vermont Early Education Standards (VELS), and we record documentation for children using Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG). In addition, teachers prepare child portfolios for every student in attendance.

Enrollment Options

Our school day runs from 8:30-3:00 and we offer families the option of enrolling for 2, 3, or 5 full days. Our school year operates roughly following the CVSD school district.

Families may choose from the following preschool schedules:

- **Two days per week:** Tuesday & Thursday
- **Three days per week:** Monday, Wednesday & Friday
- **Five days per week:** Monday–Friday

Program Hours: Bellwether's preschool day runs from **8:30 AM–3:00 PM**.

Age Requirement: Because of licensing requirements around staff-to-student ratios, we require that all enrolled children be 3 by the time they start at Bellwether.

Admissions Process

Once you have shared your interest with us, we will reach out for a consultation and to meet you and your child. As we develop our class roster, we do our best to accommodate all requests as we strive to create a well-balanced group. We appreciate your understanding.

From this point, we will invite you to formally apply by filling out our “Application Packet” through our Brightwheel platform. Admissions are rolling and we do all we can to let your family know soon after you have submitted this packet.

If your child is admitted, you will receive a formal acceptance letter along with additional information on the Bellwether experience, and an “Admissions Packet” to ensure we have all the necessary information for matriculation. All ongoing correspondence will be through the Brightwheel application.

The Bellwether School does not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, disability, creed, gender, or a parent’s marital status or gender identity.

Tuition

Full-time preschool tuition (five days per week) is \$17,750 annually, billed in 10 monthly installments from August through May. Tuition for two- and three-day enrollment is prorated based on days attended (please see the table below).

Days Per Week Enrolled	Total cost	Act 166 pays	Family Pays	
			Annually	Monthly (10 payments)
5 days	\$17,750	\$4,106	\$13,644	\$1,364.40
3 days	\$10,650	\$4,106	\$6,544	\$654.40
2 days	\$7,100	\$4,106	\$2,994	\$299.40

All children are eligible to receive state funding (ACT 166) for 10 hours of preschool. Additional tuition costs are the responsibility of the family/guardian. The state preschool funding for the 2026-2027 school year will be \$4,106.00. Once families have applied for ACT 166 through their public school district, this funding will be deducted from the total tuition.

Families may choose to pay their tuition in full at the start of the school year, or over 10 equal payments. Families choosing to pay their tuition in installments will be required to enroll in automatic payments through the Brightwheel platform.

Enrollment Deposit

A deposit equal to one month of tuition is required to hold your child's spot. The deposit is applied toward the last tuition payment of the year (May 15th) or applied to your first invoice if you choose to pay the full annual tuition at the start of the year. **Deposits are refundable for 10 days after enrollment confirmation.** After that time, the deposit becomes non-refundable.

Activities & Materials Fee

All students are assessed a **\$400 annual activities and materials fee**. This fee supports art materials, classroom supplies, and hands-on learning experiences throughout the year and is required to hold your child's spot.

Act 166 & CCFAP

Bellwether School will participate in Vermont's Act 166 Universal Prekindergarten program and the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP).

For the 2026–27 school year, Act 166 provides public funding for **up to 10 hours per week of preschool for 35 weeks** for eligible children ages **3–5** who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten. Act 166 funds are paid through a family's home school district directly to Bellwether once the child is enrolled and district registration is complete.

As part of Bellwether's enrollment process, families with eligible children are required to apply for Act 166 funding through their home school district. Our team supports families step-by-step through this process.

We also require you to determine if your family qualifies for VT State Child Care subsidy tuition support. (CCFAP). Qualification is based on service need and income. Links to eligibility requirements are found here: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfap>.

Bellwether is committed to access and works with families to understand and navigate available public funding supports.

Questions

We welcome questions and are glad to connect with families about enrollment options, tuition, and funding support.

Families who are interested are warmly invited to complete our interest form that you can access via this QR code or using this link: bellwetherschool.org/interestform.



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