

Information About the UPK Providing Partner: Little Scholars Learning Academy

The South Country Central School District continues to operate a Universal Pre-Kindergarten program through a grant. The district's own in-house program is housed within the Brookhaven Elementary School and is taught by four district-employed teachers. In addition, a yearly requirement of the grant is that the district must collaborate with an outside agency which can educate additional district students who qualify for UPK services. For the 2011/2012 school year, the district awarded the collaborating contract to the Little Scholars Learning Academy.

The Little Scholars UPK program will run out of the Brookhaven Annex, located adjacent to the Brookhaven Elementary School. The decision to utilize the Annex to house the UPK collaborating agency program optimizes opportunities to share information that in turn contributes to a better system and improved quality of UPK service delivery. The use of the Annex now allows for the maximum utilization of human and material resources; moreover, it builds trust, enthusiasm and a more collaborative working relationship among UPK professionals (district teachers and provider teachers). Additionally, the provider awarded the contract will be following the same UPK curriculum that the district-run program will be using, with the objective being a firmer alignment with the district's in-house UPK program that currently runs out of the Brookhaven School.

In addition, with heightened central office over-site, we will be able to monitor the following:

- The accurate reporting and ongoing enrollment of children on the provider's roster;
- The ability for provider teachers to network with the UPK Brookhaven teachers due to proximity; and
- Consistent review of program effectiveness through consistent visits by a central office administrator.