

APPLYING TO PK3 AND PK4
SCHOOL YEAR 2027-28

The District provides free pre-Kindergarten (PK) education services in its public and public charter schools for residents who meet the PK age cut-offs. To be eligible for any school year:

- Students must be 3 by September 30 to apply to PK3
- Students must be 4 by September 30 to apply to PK4
- Students must be 5 by September 30 to apply for Kindergarten

Families must use the My School DC application to apply to PK programs offered by schools that participate in My School DC, including:

- DCPS PK3 and PK4 programs, including the program in your in-boundary school. Go to the School Finder (http://find.myschooldc.org) to locate your DCPS in-boundary PK program; and
- PK programs at public charter schools

Families can apply to up to 12 schools on the My School DC application. However, there is no guarantee of a lottery match or waitlist offer.

The District also offers free high-quality PK for residents through community-based organizations (CBOs). To learn more about the District's high-quality community-based PK programs. Community-based PK programs are not part of the public school lottery.

APPLY BY MARCH 1, 2027

- **Set up a family account.**
- **Gather all of the information you need to complete your My School DC application.**
  You will not be able to submit the application if you do not have all required information. Scan the QR code to find the link to this information.
- **Add the schools on your list to your My School DC application and rank them in the order you prefer.**
  The order you rank your schools lets us know the order in which you want to be matched to schools; it does not affect any preferences you may qualify for such as sibling or transfer preference.
- **Submit your application by March 1..**
  You can make edits to your submitted application any time before March 1. You can update your school rankings up until March 12 at 5 p.m.

BEFORE YOU APPLY

- **Make a list.**
  Use the **School Finder (http://find.myschooldc.org)** and search for schools by address, grade and program type (such as Montessori, Dual Language, and more). You can also map your potential commute to school with this tool. Note: There is no guarantee of a lottery match or waitlist offer at the schools you apply to so apply to all the schools you want to attend. You can apply to up to 12!

- **Check out the school profiles.**
  School Profiles show basic information about each school and you can view their open house schedules. Make note of grades for which they take applications, as well as past lottery data showing the number of seats made available in a grade, the waitlist length at time of results and the waitlist movement. Scan the QR code to find the link to this information.
- **Attend EdFEST, school fairs and open houses.**
  Ask questions directly to schools you are interested in to help narrow your choices. Scan the QR code to find the link to this information.
- **Use your networks.**
  It is helpful to talk with people you know (e.g., neighbors, friends, school counselors) who are knowledgeable about the schools you are thinking of applying to.
- **Decide your ranking.**
  You will rank your final list of schools in the order you prefer. Ranking your list in this order is important. You will only be waitlisted at the schools you rank above your matched school.

READING ON PAPER? SCAN HERE TO FIND ALL LINKS REFERENCED

IMPORTANT: DCPS IN-BOUNDARY PK3 AND PK4 PROGRAMS

An in-boundary school is a DCPS school that a student has a right to attend for grades K-12 based on where the student lives. **However, the "right to attend" is not extended to children in PK3 or PK4 and there is no guarantee of a lottery match or waitlist offer**. If a family seeks to enroll their student in their in-boundary PK3 or PK4 program, they must select that school as one of their 12 selections on their My School DC application and rank it in the order they like most. PK3 or PK4 applicants will be awarded an "in-boundary" lottery preference at their in-boundary school and, at the time of enrollment, will be required to provide proof of residency at the guardian's address entered on the My School DC application.

APPLYING TO PK3 OR PK4? CONSIDER ASKING THE QUESTIONS BELOW:

- What is the structure of your day? For example, do you include playtime, naptime?
- Does my child have to be toilet trained? What is your policy on toilet training?
- My child is transitioning from daycare/Head Start to Pre-K. What types of support will you offer my child as they make the transition?
- My child has an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). How will you work with me and my child to transition to an Individualized Education Program (IEP)?
- What is your attendance policy for Pre-Kindergarten (PK3-PK4)?