

Grades K-5

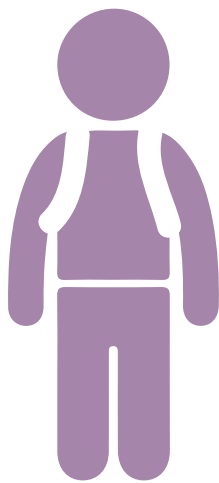
Elementary School



New to NYC public schools?

New to NYC and need a school now? Visit schools.nyc.gov/NewStudents or call **718-935-2009** to learn what to do.

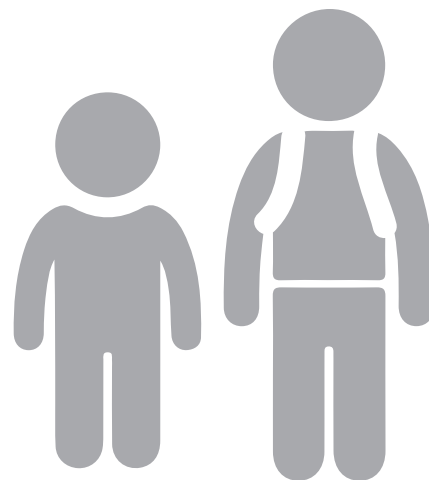
There are two pathways to elementary school, and you can take both:



Kindergarten

Section 6.1 – 6.8

schools.nyc.gov/Kindergarten



Gifted and Talented

Section 6.9

schools.nyc.gov/GT

All New York City families with children born in 2016 are encouraged to participate in both kindergarten and Gifted & Talented (G&T) admissions this year. Once your child starts kindergarten, they can remain at the same school until its final elementary grade.

6.0 | KINDERGARTEN/GIFTED & TALENTED

KINDERGARTEN ACTION CHECKLIST

1. Learn about kindergarten admissions

- Read this guide. Check schools.nyc.gov/Kindergarten for the most up-to-date information.
- Sign up for our kindergarten email list at schools.nyc.gov/SignUp to get admissions tips, updates, and key date reminders.

2. Explore schools

- Use **MySchools.nyc** to learn about kindergarten options and find programs that meet your family's needs. Create a MySchools account.
- Learn which school district (1-32) you live in and if your child has a zoned school by entering your address at schools.nyc.gov/Find-a-School or calling **311**. Fill in the blanks:

My school district is _____ and

My child's zoned elementary school is _____.

OR

My child does not have a zoned elementary school.

3. Mark your calendar—and apply!

- Learn when to apply to kindergarten. Then fill in the key dates below:

The kindergarten application opens on __/__/__, and the deadline to apply is 1/19/2021.

- Apply to kindergarten by the January 19 deadline. How do you plan to apply? Check one box:
 - Online at **MySchools.nyc**
 - By Phone at **718-935-2009**
 - Through a Family Welcome Center—learn how at schools.nyc.gov/WelcomeCenters

4. Get and accept your child's offer

- Receive your child's kindergarten offer! This offer letter will also include information about waitlists and next steps. Fill in the blank.

My child's kindergarten offer is to this school: _____.
- Use MySchools to accept your offer or contact the school to register.



TIP Watch our Elementary Admissions Video Series at schools.nyc.gov/ESVideos! We'll walk you through how to explore schools and programs, create a MySchools account, save a list of favorite options, add programs to your application, and apply.

6.1 | Who Can Apply?

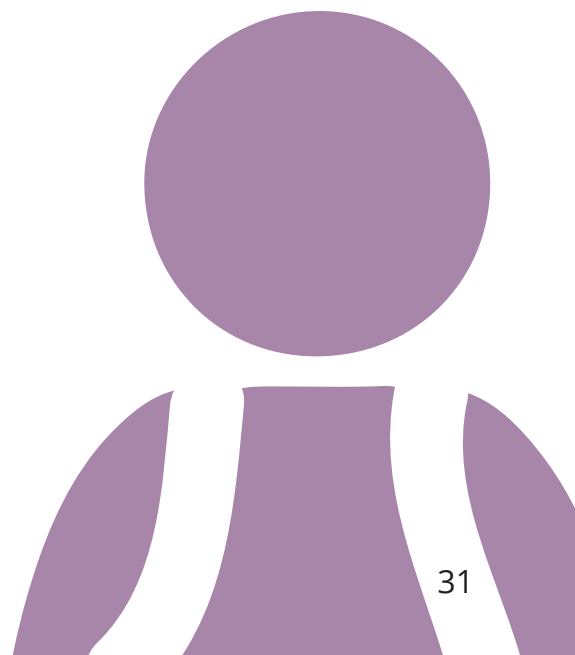
All New York City families with children born in 2016 can apply to kindergarten programs this winter. These children will enter kindergarten in fall 2021. All children of this age are guaranteed a kindergarten seat in a public school. This includes students currently attending pre-K at NYC Early Education Centers, DOE public schools, Pre-K Centers, charter schools, and private or parochial schools, as well as children who will be starting school for the first time.



TIP Some elementary schools offer early childhood programs; if you are currently attending a pre-K program at a school and want your child to stay there for elementary school, you will still need to apply to kindergarten.

Charter Schools

Charter schools are free public schools that are open to all New York City students and that operate independently from the Department of Education. All students eligible to apply to DOE public schools are also eligible to apply to charter schools. Charter schools have a separate admissions process. If you would like to apply to kindergarten at a charter school, please contact that school directly to find out how to apply. Learn more at schools.nyc.gov/Charters.



6.2 | Explore Elementary Schools

There are two types of schools that you can add to your child's kindergarten application.

Zoned schools



Most NYC families have a zoned school, which means they live in an area zoned for a specific school and their children have priority to attend it. Your zoned school, if you have one, is the school where your child is most likely to go to kindergarten. Most zoned schools make kindergarten offers to all students living in the zone. Some have room to make offers to children living outside of their zone.



TIP If you'd like your child to attend their zoned school, add it to their application. You don't have to place it as your first choice.

Non-zoned schools



These schools do not have a zone. Families throughout the district or borough can attend them. Most non-zoned schools give priority to students who have older siblings attending, who are current pre-K students, or who live in the district.

Three NYC school districts have only non-zoned schools. This means students living in one of these districts have priority to attend all schools in their district:

- District 1 (Lower East Side, Manhattan)
- District 7 (South Bronx)
- District 23 (Brownsville, Brooklyn)

Dual Language Programs

Some elementary schools also offer Dual Language programs. These programs teach students in both English and another language. The goal of these programs is for students to be able to read, write, and speak in both languages. To apply to a Dual Language program, add it to your child's application. Please note that two programs at the same school count as two separate choices on your child's application.

Magnet Schools

Some elementary schools, known as magnet schools, provide a school-wide curriculum designed around a specific theme. These schools aim to attract a diverse pool of applicants and historically have accommodated students from outside their zone or district. While some schools may have the word "magnet" in their school's name, only a school that currently gets Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) funding will be labeled as a "magnet school" on its MySchools directory page.

Special Music School

There is one elementary school that requires an audition as part of its admissions process. If you add Special Music School to your child's application, you will be contacted and provided details regarding auditions. For more information please visit [kaufmanmusiccenter.org/sms](https://www.kaufmanmusiccenter.org/sms).



TIP Interested in Gifted & Talented (G&T) programs? G&T has its own admissions process; you cannot list G&T programs on your child's kindergarten application. Learn how to participate in **Section 6.9**.



6.3 | Learn How Children Get Offers

Children receive kindergarten offers based on four key factors:

Step #

Key Factors

1

Your application choices

The kindergarten programs you choose for your child’s application AND the order in which you place them matter! Add up to 12 choices to the application in your true order of preference, with your favorite at the top as #1. Your child will get an offer to your highest possible choice considering the factors listed below.

2

Programs’ seat availability

Kindergarten programs vary in size and demand. Each kindergarten program has a certain number of available seats. If a program has more applicants than seats, we will not be able to make offers to every applicant. Offers will then be made based on admissions priorities and randomly assigned numbers.

3

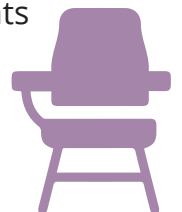
Programs’ admissions priorities + your child’s priority group

Your child has a better chance of getting an offer from some kindergarten programs than others. Kindergarten programs give admissions priorities to specific groups of applicants before others, such as to students who have siblings at the school, who live in a specific zone, who live in the district, or who currently attend pre-K at the school. A program’s admissions priorities determine the order it considers specific groups of applicants for offers. All students in a program’s priority group 1 will be considered first for offers. Then, if seats are still available, students in that program’s priority group 2 will be considered next, and so on. Learn more in Section 6.4.

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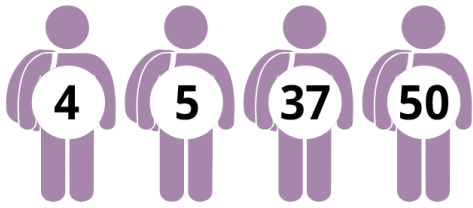
Randomly assigned numbers

Each kindergarten applicant is also assigned a random number. If a program has fewer available seats than applicants within a priority group, these random numbers determine the order in which students get offers.



Let's look at how a sample zoned school makes offers using these factors:

PRIORITY GROUP 1



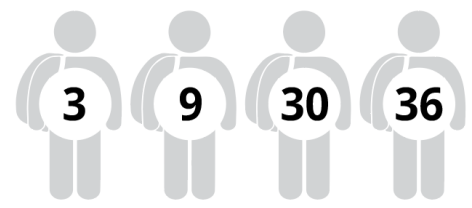
Students who live in the zone and have a sibling at the school

PRIORITY GROUP 2



Other students who live in the zone

PRIORITY GROUP 3



Students who live in the district and have a sibling at the school

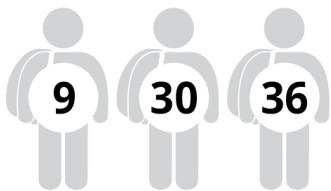
This program has eight available seats and eleven applicants. Because there are more applicants than seats, not all of these applicants will get an offer to this program.

First... The applicants in priority group 1 are considered for offers. Since there are four of them and eight available seats, all priority 1 applicants get an offer to this program.

Next... The applicants in priority group 2 are considered for offers. Four seats remain, and since there are only three priority group 2 applicants, all of them get offers to the program, too.

Finally... The applicants in priority group 3 are considered for offers. Only one seat remains, and since there are four applicants in this group, only one student—the student who is first in numerical order within that group—will get an offer.

OFFER!



Waitlist... Now all seats in this program are filled. Based on their priority groups and randomly assigned numbers, the remaining three students in priority group 3 do not get an offer to this program. These students are then considered for offers at the next program on each of their applications, as well as added to this program's waitlist.

6.4 | Understand Admissions Priorities

As you explore your kindergarten options, check which admissions priority group your child is in for each program of interest. Your child will be in different priority groups for different programs.

Know Your Chances




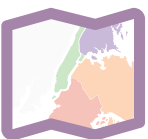
When you're logged into your MySchools account, you can learn about a school's admissions priorities and who got offers last year. This information will help you know your child's chances of getting an offer to a particular school.

- The higher priority your child has to attend a school, the higher the chance that your child will get an offer to that school.



- If a school made offers to a specific group of students in 2020, they may be able to make offers to this group again. For example, if a school was able to make offers to children living outside of their zone who had an older sibling in the school, they may be able to make offers to siblings living outside of the zone again.



Common Types of Admissions Priorities

Priority	Description
 Zoned Priority	<p>A zoned school gives an admissions priority to students who live in that school's zone over students who live in other zones.</p>
 Sibling Priority	<p>Elementary schools offer an admissions priority to applicants whose siblings attend the same school. If your child has an older sibling at a school that you've added to their application, they may have a higher chance of getting an offer from that school than an applicant without an enrolled sibling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide sibling information when you apply to ensure that your child gets sibling priority.• What counts as a sibling? For admissions priority purposes, a sibling is defined as an applicant's brother or sister, including half-brothers, half-sisters, stepbrothers, stepsisters, foster brothers, and foster sisters who live in the same household and are currently pre-registered or enrolled at that school in kindergarten through grade 12, and who will be enrolled at that school in any grade level between kindergarten and grade 12 in September 2021. This includes students enrolled in District 75 programs in the same school building.
 Current Pre-K Student Priority	<p>If your child is currently enrolled in pre-K at a DOE public elementary school, they will have an admissions priority to attend kindergarten at that school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remember that not all elementary schools have pre-K.• Students currently attending pre-K at a public elementary school still need to apply to kindergarten.
 District Priority	<p>Most elementary schools give an admissions priority to students who live in their school's district over students who live in other districts.</p>

Admissions Priorities for Zoned and Non-Zoned Schools

Zoned Type	Admissions Priorities
 <p data-bbox="167 709 289 783">Zoned schools</p>	<p data-bbox="402 394 1360 468">All zoned elementary schools make offers to students in the following order:</p> <ol data-bbox="418 474 1377 548" style="list-style-type: none">1. Students who live in the zone and have a sibling at the school2. Other students who live in the zone <p data-bbox="402 590 1360 663">If space allows, students living outside the zone may also be admitted, in the following order:</p> <ol data-bbox="418 669 1450 974" style="list-style-type: none">3. Students with a sibling at the school who live in the district4. Students with a sibling at the school who live outside the district5. Students who live in the district and are currently enrolled at the school for pre-K6. Students who live outside the district and are currently enrolled at the school for pre-K7. Other students who live in the district8. Other students who live outside the district
 <p data-bbox="142 1266 313 1339">Non-zoned schools</p>	<p data-bbox="402 1056 1482 1161">Different non-zoned schools have different admissions priorities, but most non-zoned schools give an admissions priority to students who live in the same district as the school.</p> <ul data-bbox="516 1213 1450 1434" style="list-style-type: none">• You can look up any school's admissions priorities in MySchools and find out which priority group your child is in for that school.• Some districts—such as Districts 1, 7, and 23—have district-specific admissions priorities. Learn more on each school's MySchools page.




6.5 | Apply to Kindergarten!

Mark your calendar! The deadline to apply to kindergarten is January 19, 2021.

When the kindergarten application period opens, you can access your child's application in MySchools. Remember all the elementary schools you explored, and the programs you narrowed down as your favorites? You can now add up to 12 choices to your child's application. Remember to list your favorite as #1! Regardless of when you apply, all kindergarten applications received by the deadline are treated the same. There is no advantage to applying early, and you can make changes to your application any time before the January 19 deadline.

How to Apply



 **MySchools.nyc.** During the application period, apply online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can make changes to your application anytime before the deadline. When you apply, don't forget to click the Submit Application button. When you see the confetti, you'll know we've received your child's application!

Get Help

Need support using MySchools or submitting your child's application?



Call us at **718-935-2009**. We're available Monday through Friday from 8am to 6pm or Saturday through Sunday from 9am to 1pm.



Get support from a Family Welcome Center. Find your local Family Welcome Center in Section 1.0! Learn how and when to contact us at **schools.nyc.gov/WelcomeCenters**.

Multiple Children Applying to Kindergarten?

If you have more than one child applying to kindergarten and want your children to attend the same school, you will have the option to apply for both or all children at the same time.

6.6 | Get Your Offer

In the spring, you will get your child's kindergarten offer letter. This letter tells you where your child will go to kindergarten, where your child is waitlisted (if applicable), and what to do next.

Registration

- Accept your child's offer! This secures your child's kindergarten seat at their school. You can accept your offer online through MySchools or by contacting the school directly. We encourage you to accept your child's offer even if you are hoping for a G&T or waitlist offer. Accepting this offer will not affect your chances of receiving another offer!
- Register your child for kindergarten. Ask your child's school about next steps and set up a time to register. Use the Registration Checklist on page 13 to make sure you know what documents you'll need to provide.

Waitlists

When a kindergarten program has more applicants than seats, a waitlist is created for that program.

- Your child will automatically be placed on the waitlist for any kindergarten program that you listed higher on your child's application than the program where they got an offer. For example, if your child got an offer to attend the program you listed third on their application, they will automatically be added to the waitlist for your first- and second-choice programs.
- After the application deadline, you can add your child to additional programs' waitlists.

Schools will contact a waitlisted family directly if they are able to offer a seat. No additional action is required of families on a waitlist at this point in the admissions process.



6.7 | Gifted & Talented Programs


Gifted & Talented (G&T) programs offer an accelerated curriculum to elementary school students. Offers are made each year to high-scoring students entering kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade.

G&T ACTION CHECKLIST

1. Learn about G&T admissions

- Get a quick overview by reading this section. Then visit schools.nyc.gov/GT to learn more, get the most up-to-date information, and find practice tests.
- Sign up for our G&T admissions email list at schools.nyc.gov/SignUp to get admissions tips, updates, and key date reminders.

2. Mark your calendar, register, and apply!

- Learn when to register for the G&T test and apply to G&T programs. Then fill in the key dates: G&T registration/application opens on ___/___/___, and the deadline to register and apply is ___/___/___.
- Register and apply by the deadline online at  MySchools.nyc. Need help? Contact your child's current school or a Family Welcome Center—learn how at schools.nyc.gov/WelcomeCenters.

3. Mark your calendar for test day—and test!

- Learn when your child's test is scheduled. Then fill in the information below: My child's G&T test will be held at this time ___am/pm on this date: ___/___/___ at this location _____.
- Familiarize your child with the style of the G&T test by using the practice tests at schools.nyc.gov/GT.
- Take your child to the test.

4. Get your child's test score

- In the spring, receive your child's score report.
- If their score is high enough, your child will be considered for G&T programs. If not, your child will attend another elementary school program: all New York City children are guaranteed a seat in a public elementary school.


Who Can Apply?

- All children applying to kindergarten (born in 2016) can also participate in Gifted & Talented (G&T) admissions.
- Current kindergarten, first grade, and second grade students can also participate.

Sign Up to Take the G&T Test and Apply

To participate in G&T admissions, take the following two steps: 1 - Register your child to take the G&T test for their age group, for 2021 admissions. 2 - Complete and submit a G&T application. This is your chance to list your child's G&T program choices in your order of preference. Here's how to register and apply:



 **MySchools.nyc.** During the registration/application period, you can register for the test and apply to G&T programs online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Need help? Get support from your child's current public school or a Family Welcome Center. Find your local Family Welcome Center in **Section 1.0!** Learn how and when to contact us at schools.nyc.gov/WelcomeCenters.

Get Your Child's Score

You'll receive your child's score report in the spring. If their score is high enough, they will be considered for G&T programs.

- A score of 90 is required to be considered for district G&T programs. District G&T programs give an admissions priority to applicants who live in specific districts.
- A score of 97 is required to be considered for citywide G&T programs. Citywide G&T programs do not give applicants priority based on where they live.

Please note that G&T programs are competitive, and seat availability is limited.

- Many students who take the test do not get a qualifying score.
- Even some students with qualifying scores do not receive offers.
- Qualifying applicants with a sibling priority are considered before applicants with higher scores who do not have siblings at the school.



TIP Remember that even if you are also applying to kindergarten, you cannot add G&T programs to your child's kindergarten application.