

Elementary School Enrollment

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Pre-Kindergarten www.nyc.gov/schools/choicesenrollment/prek

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) programs are available at some Department of Education public schools and at many community-based organizations (CBOs). CBOs are independent pre-school centers that partner with the City to offer UPK programs. Families can apply to both public school and CBO UPK programs. Programs can be half-day or full-day; half-day programs may take place in the morning or afternoon. All UPK programs, regardless of their length or setting, are free of charge.

Apply: There are separate admissions processes and timelines for public school and CBO UPK programs.

Public School UPK Programs: If you are interested in sending your child to a public school pre-kindergarten program, you must submit an application through the centralized admissions process in order to gain admission for September of the following school year. The pre-kindergarten admissions process typically begins in March.

CBO UPK Programs: If you are interested in a CBO program, you should contact the CBO directly to ask about seat availability, enrollment, and timeline. For more information about CBO programs near you, call 718-935-2009.

Kindergarten www.nyc.gov/schools/choicesenrollment/elementary

The kindergarten admissions process is school-based, but there are citywide guidelines for eligibility and admissions priorities, as well as a standard timeline for all schools beginning in January. Most elementary schools in New York City are zoned. This means that your elementary school is determined by your home address. To find your zoned elementary school, call 311 or type your home address into the School Search tool at **www.nyc.gov/schools/schoolsearch**. Some districts also have non-zoned or choice schools.

Ways to Prepare and Resources: To learn more about your elementary school options and the kindergarten admissions process, consult the Elementary School Directory. The Directory is available online at **www.nyc.gov/schools/choicesenrollment/elementary/publications/esdirectories**.

Apply: During the application period, you should apply to your local zoned school and other schools of interest. You must apply in person at each school. Keep in mind that zoned schools must accommodate all students who live within the zone before considering other applicants.

Gifted & Talented www.nyc.gov/schools/gt

The Department of Education provides Gifted & Talented (G&T) programs for students who score at the 90th percentile or above on a combination of two tests designed to measure intellectual capability and school readiness.

Ways to Prepare and Resources: G&T Program Handbooks are available at elementary schools, borough enrollment offices, and online at **www.nyc.gov/schools/academics/giftedandtalented**. The handbooks provide information about the process for requesting testing, the assessments, eligibility, placement, and preparation tips. Each handbook includes a practice test.

Apply: The Department of Education administers testing to determine eligibility for G&T programs. Testing is available for all pre-kindergarten through second grade students who are current New York City residents. In order to have your child tested for eligibility, you must submit a Request for Testing form (RFT) online or in-person by the deadline. If your child's test score (percentile rank) meets G&T eligibility requirements, you will then fill out an application indicating your program preferences. Placement will be based on a variety of factors including sibling priority, test score, ranked program choices, and available seats.