



Prekindergarten Fact Sheet for Parents

What is the prekindergarten program?

The Baltimore County Public Schools prekindergarten program provides learning experiences that address the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical needs of young children. All sessions are half-day and follow the same school year calendar as other grades.

How old must a child be to attend prekindergarten?

During the **2020-2021** school year **and each school year thereafter**, a child must be four (4) years old on September 1 of the school year in which the child applies for entrance. For the **2020-2021** school year, the child's birth date must fall between 9/2/2015 and 9/1/2016.

Who is eligible for prekindergarten?

Automatic eligibility for a prekindergarten program will occur **when a child meets the age of entry guidelines and meets at least one of the following** criteria:

- Is from an economically disadvantaged background (i.e., eligible for free or reduced-price school meal program as established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture).
- Is homeless.
- Has been identified through the IEP team process with the development of an IEP as requiring special education classroom instruction within a general education setting.

Children who do not meet the automatic criteria for eligibility will be considered for enrollment based upon availability of space and prioritized criteria. **As with automatic eligibility, children must first meet the age of entry guidelines** Historically, parents/guardians of students not meeting automatic criteria were notified between August 15th – September 15th about space availability. This year, due to the registration constraints caused by the closing of school buildings by the State Superintendent, notifications will not be made until two weeks **AFTER** the school buildings open to students.

How many children are served and what is the staffing in prekindergarten?

Twenty (20) children are accepted for each session. Each session is staffed by a certified classroom teacher and a paid classroom helper.

If my neighborhood school does not have a program, can my child still attend prekindergarten?

Call or visit your neighborhood school to determine if your child is automatically eligible for attendance and to complete the registration process. All students who are **automatically eligible** for prekindergarten will be provided access to a program. If a child is placed in a program outside of their home school, no transportation is provided and the child will not automatically remain at that school at the conclusion of their prekindergarten year.

Where can I get more information about prekindergarten programs?

Additional information can be obtained from your local elementary school, from the Baltimore County Public Schools Web site (BCPS.org) at the [Early Childhood Pre-K page](#), or from the BCPS Office of Early Childhood Programs at 443-809-4313.