

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Who has priority for attending Pre-Kindergarten?

Priority is given to 4-year-old children who come from families with economically disadvantaged backgrounds, who are homeless, or receive special education services.

The Bridge to Excellence Act requires local school systems to enroll all income eligible 4-year-old children whose parents seek to enroll them.

A child admitted to the Pre-K program in the public schools must be four-years-old or older on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year in which the child applies for entrance.

### Can my child still be enrolled if he/she is not eligible?

Yes, according to COMAR 13A.06.02.03B, if all vacancies have not been filled by children meeting the priority eligibility criteria, a local school system may enroll other 4-year-old applicants who exhibit a lack of readiness in the foundational skills, knowledge, and behaviors of the Maryland Prekindergarten College and Career-Ready Standards.

### What are the locations and dates for Pre-Registration?

April 2 and April 3, 2020 are the dates scheduled for Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration. Each school will determine their own hours, but typically students can be registered between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the office area of their home school.

### How old does my child have to be in order to start Pre-K?

Your child must be 4-years-old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year in which the child applies for entrance, in order to qualify for Pre-K.

### When will I know if my child has been accepted into Pre-K?

For children who meet the COMAR eligibility guidelines, those families will be notified prior to the end of the school year of their child's acceptance into the Pre-K program. For children who are placed on a waiting list, their families will be notified after Labor Day whether there is a vacancy in the Pre-K program.

### What are the long-term effects of Pre-Kindergarten?

Findings suggest that participation in prekindergarten programs significantly reduces the number of children who were identified as having disabilities or placement in special education services.

#### [Early Childhood Education](#)

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### If I miss the early Pre-Registration, can I still enroll my child?

Yes. Registration continues throughout the year, but it is best that parents register their child as early as possible so that the school system can adequately prepare for the start of the new school year.

### My child is advanced but is only 3-years-old, can I apply for early entry into Pre-K?

No. Early entry into Pre-K is for children who are delayed. There is no provision for 3-year-olds to attend Pre-K. Cash Valley, Beall and South Penn Elementary are currently the only schools that accept 3-year-olds into a typical educational setting.

### How large are the class sizes?

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



## What documentation must I provide to register my child for Pre-Kindergarten?

In order to register your child for Pre-K, you need to provide the following information:

1. Parent Photo Identification
2. Child's Birth Certificate
3. Child's Social Security Card
4. Proof of Residence of the parent or caregiver (deed, current lease, recent utility bill (electric, gas, cable), bank statement, no cellular phone bills)
5. Legal Documents (custody, guardianship, court orders)
6. Immunization (shot) Record
7. Lead Testing Form
8. Physical Examination Form
9. Proof of Income (to be considered for priority 1 status)

### NOTE:

All children must be registered at their home school. Out-of-district permits/requests can be completed at the time of registration and will be considered for approval on a case-by-case basis in accordance with ACPS regulation JC-R1.



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## PRE-KINDERGARTEN ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

