

CPS Kindergarten Lottery

Register your child for Kindergarten between January 2 - 31, 2024



Age for Kindergarten

5 years old by August 31, 2024

How to Apply

Register and upload your documents easily through our online registration system.



bit.ly/cpslottery

Or, submit your documents via email (welcome@cpsd.us) or in person at the Student Registration Center.



Register for the K Lottery!

1) Lottery Registration Begins January 2, 2024 and Ends January 31, 2024

- Register (and submit) your application online using our online registration system: www.bit.ly/cpslottery
- If you need to submit a paper application, you can download them here: www.bit.ly/cpslottery

2) Upload All Required Documents Online

- You can upload and submit your required documents via our online system: www.bit.ly/cpslottery
- Or, you can email the registration forms and required documents to SRC@cpsd.us or drop them off at our office.
- **What Documents are Needed:** Child's birth certificate or passport; Lease, mortgage, or other approved proof of address; Utility bill dated within 30 days; Parent photo identification; Immunization (shots) record; Health History Form

3) Submit Your Application & All Required Documents by 4PM on Wednesday, January 31, 2024!

Contact us at welcome@cpsd.us or 617.349.6551 with any questions.

Important Reminder: Language Immersion Programs & Testing

If a language test is required to determine eligibility to receive program language bonus points in the K Lottery for Amigos, the Chinese Immersion Program, and the Olá program, families must schedule the language test in order to ensure that it is completed by 4PM on January 31, 2024.

About Controlled Choice

Controlled Choice has Two Parts: *Parent/Guardian Choice and Balancing Schools*

Controlled Choice is an equity-driven school assignment process that takes into account parent/guardian preferences and the goal of creating balanced schools.

How does Parent/Guardian Choice influence assignments?

When registering, you are asked to list three school choices, which will be matched to openings at schools through a computerized system. The system penalizes applications with only 1 or 2 choices.

What is “Controlled” about assignments?

The Controlled Choice assignment process seeks to manage the socio-economic (SES) balance of school communities, as measured by the percentage of students who do or do not qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced Price Meals Program. The goal is for each school to reflect the demographics of the school district as a whole.

How is SES balance determined?

During the lottery, a portion of open seats at each school are designated as either “Paid Lunch” seats or “Free/Reduced Lunch” seats.

When you apply, you are asked to voluntarily disclose which of the two categories applies to your family. The Controlled Choice Form is required, but families may choose to select, “I decline to provide this information.” If you decline, the application becomes a “Paid Lunch” application.

How does Balancing affect Parent/Guardian Choice?

The Lottery is designed to provide as many students as possible with one of their choices while managing the balance between the two assignment categories. Students in the “Paid Lunch” assignment category may only be assigned to “Paid Lunch” seats, and students in the “Free/Reduced Lunch” assignment category may only be assigned to “Free/Reduced Lunch” seats.

The system will assign as many students as possible to their First Choice of school before moving on to Second Choices, and finally to Third Choices. It’s a lottery, so the system will create a random order for making these assignments (explained further on the next page). At the end of this process, most students will receive one of their school choices.

The Student Registration Center will contact families who did not receive one of their choices to discuss where seats are still available in their assignment category.



What's Special about the January Kindergarten Lottery?

January is the time when future Kindergarten students will have the best opportunity to be matched to a school of their choice.

Parents/Guardians must complete their application and submit all required documents by 4PM on January 31 in order to participate in the January Kindergarten Lottery. The online registration system is the easiest way to get us your application, however if you need to send a paper application or to send us your information outside of this portal please contact us at SRC@cpsd.us or 617.349.6551.

After the January Kindergarten Lottery closes, there may be no seats left at some of our schools. All children will receive a school assignment, but choices will be more limited.

Families may register any time during the month of January. All January registrations are grouped together, so there is no special benefit for registering early in the month. All applications that are completed in January will be included in the lottery.

Random Number:

Applications received during the month of January are assigned a random number. Some applications have additional “bonus points” added to give certain groups of students priority.

Sibling Bonus Points:

If you choose a school where a sister or brother will be attending grades K-5 (K-8 for Amigos) next year, your child will get 2 million “sibling bonus points.”

Proximity Bonus Points:

The two schools that are within closest walking distance to your home, with the exception of Tobin Montessori, Amigos School, Olá, and Mandarin Immersion, will each offer 1 million “proximity bonus points.” Please utilize our *Find a School* tool located on our website or contact the SRC to learn which two schools are your proximity schools.

Program Language Bonus Points –

Amigos, Olá, and Mandarin Immersion:

Students who choose a dual immersion program and speak the program language must take a friendly and brief test to determine whether or not they are eligible for the program language bonus points. (This test must be scheduled and completed by 4PM on January 31.) Program language bonus points add 1 million points to a student's random number. Dual immersion programs do not offer proximity bonus points, but do offer sibling bonus points.

More Points = Better Chances

The maximum number of bonus points an application may receive is 3 million. Each child's random number and bonus points are added together to create a point total for each choice. Because many schools fill up with students who selected them as their #1 choice, the more points your #1 choice receives the better your chances in the Lottery.

Find your two proximity schools
using the “Find a School” tool!

bit.ly/cps-proximity



How Assignments are Made

A computer assigns students to schools by starting with the highest point score for #1 School Choices.

Moving from highest to lowest points, the computer matches as many #1 Choices as possible before moving on. Then, the computer seeks to match unassigned students with available seats at their #2 Choice schools. Finally, the computer seeks to match students with #3 Choices.

Sometimes all seats at a school will fill up with #1 School Choices. Therefore, your #1 choice is most important. Keep in mind that students may only be assigned if the percentage of students who do and do not qualify for Free or Reduced meals remains in balance as defined by the Controlled Choice Policy.



Example: *These students all registered for the same choice of school, and were randomly assigned 572, 301, 175, and 84 points. Only one more seat is available. Who will get in?*



proximity
1,000,572 points



sibling + proximity
3,000,301 points



proximity
1,000,175 points



no bonus points
84 points



Making Your Choices

How Do I Choose?

Every family's needs and preferences are different, so it's important to make the choices that seem right to you.

- Research your school options on our website.
- Consider your sibling school as your first choice.
- Learn about your "Proximity School," and consider listing a proximity school as one of your choices.
- Consider start/end times, location, and whether you can walk or ride the bus.
- Some schools provide more time for fine arts, humanities, or technology education.
- Two schools have an extended, 8-hour school day.



bit.ly/saag-23-24



Can I Increase My Odds of Getting into a School I Choose?

Some families feel confident that multiple schools would be a good fit. Consider the factors listed above if you're considering more than three schools and are trying to decide between them.

How Do Students Get Placed on Waitlists?

Students who are assigned to their second choice school are automatically placed on the waitlist for their first choice school. Students assigned to their third choice school are automatically placed on the waitlist for their first and second choice schools. Students who receive none of their choices after the lottery closes are placed on the wait lists at all three schools.

What if I Get None of My Choices?

SRC staff members will contact unassigned families to discuss options for a “mandatory assignment.” Some families may be able to choose between a few options - schools that still have open seats after the lottery. Although many mandatorily assigned families will choose to transfer when a seat becomes available at one of their three choices, others discover that their assignment is a great match for their family. Whatever you decide, the Student Registration Center is here to help you through the process.



Other Considerations

Late Registration

Registrations received during the month of February and up until the January lottery results are emailed will be grouped into a second cycle lottery for remaining available seats. After that date, school assignments for Kindergarten are made on a monthly basis to schools where seats are available.

SPECIAL NOTE:

All age eligible 3- and 4-year-olds for September 2024 will need to apply for the Cambridge Preschool Program (CPP) through the Cambridge Office of Early Childhood. Please visit their website for more information: www.earlychildhoodcambridge.org



Liaison Contact Information

For school tours, language assistance, and more...

Schools	Family Liaison	Email/Telephone
Amigos School	Katherine Vasquez-Sanchez	kvsanchez@cpsd.us; 617.349.6315
Baldwin School	Susan Tiersch	stiersch@cpsd.us; 617.349.6525 x105
Cambridgeport School	Kristen Emack	kemack@cpsd.us; 617.349.6587 x111
Fletcher Maynard Academy	Daniel Skeritt	dskeritt@cpsd.us; 617.349.6589
Graham & Parks School	Lauren Morse	lmorse@cpsd.us; 617.349.6577 x115
Haggerty School	Lissa Galluccio	lgalluccio@cpsd.us; 617.349.6555 x208
Kennedy-Longfellow School	Nancy Wyse	nwyse@cpsd.us; 617.349.4865
King Open School	Neusa DaCosta	ndacosta@cpsd.us; 617.349.6540 x101
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School	Marguerite Hicks-Gyewu	mhicks-gyewu@cpsd.us; 617.349.6454
Morse School	Amy Diaz	adiaz@cpsd.us; 617.349.6575 x108
Peabody School	Nicole M. Sullivan	nsullivan@cpsd.us; 617.349.6530 x1141
Tobin Montessori School	Sandra Paunov	spaunov@cpsd.us; 617.349.6600 x153

Resources

Special Education Parent Support: Zuleka Queen-Postell - 617.593.4402, zqueen-postell@cpsd.us

Amharic: Aboma Dirbaba - 857.331.1199, adirbaba@cpsd.us

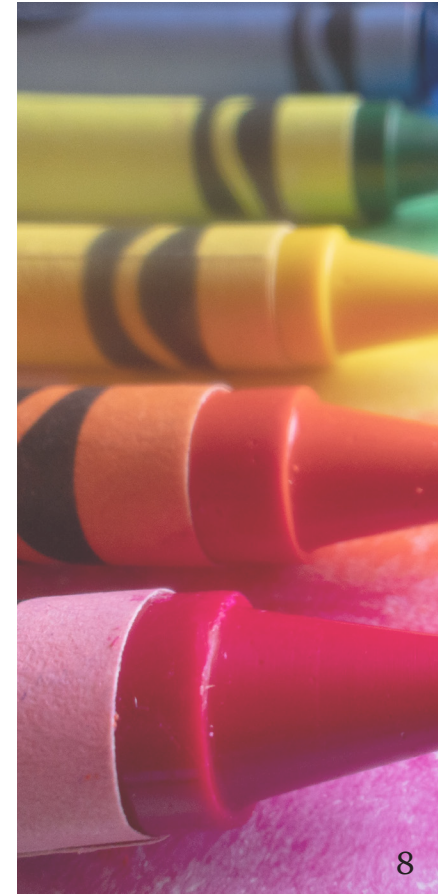
Haitian Creole: Diecline Dorvil, 617.201.6039, dbazile-dorvil@cpsd.us

Spanish: Joseph Rivera - 617.999.8472, jrivera@cpsd.us

Sheltered English Immersion: Mildrid Gédéon - 617.349.6577 x120, mgedeon@cpsd.us

Special Needs - Office of Student Services: 617.349.6500

For Health Related Inquires, Immunizations: Vanessa Sanz - 617.665.3776



What Happens After You Register

Students with Disabilities/Special Needs

Student IEPs (Individualized Education Program documents) will be reviewed to ensure that your child receives appropriate supports. This will not delay your child's participation in the lottery. If your child has special needs but does not have an IEP, 504 Accommodation Plan, or Individualized Health Plan (for instance, because the disability is new or you are moving from outside of the country), please notify us so that we can connect you with the Office of Student Services.

Waitlisted Students

We will contact waitlisted students as soon as a seat becomes available. To keep the process moving quickly, we are only able to provide you with 48 hours to respond. Please keep us informed of the best way to reach you.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Your child's school will reach out to you in the spring to invite you to events that will help your family get to know the school and transition to Kindergarten. Teacher assignments are not usually available until late summer. During the first 2 days of school, your child will not attend for a full day, and will instead come for an orientation with your child's teacher.

LANGUAGE TESTING

If your child speaks the program language of an immersion school or program, they must have their language level assessed in order to determine whether or not they will receive bonus points. We strongly encourage you to register earlier in the month of January to leave enough time for you to schedule the test and ensure that it takes place by 4PM on January 31.

Kindergarten Lottery Timeline for Families

FALL	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL – JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	NEXT JAN.
Kindergarten Info Sessions	Registration Online	Watch for a letter confirming your application information	School Assignments are Emailed	Kindergarten Transition Events	School Bus, School Meals, and Other CPS Mailings	September 2024: School Starts!	Waitlist Renewals Deadline: March 1
School Tours	Language Tests		Waitlists Established				
Gather Documents	IEP Review						

Kindergarten Lottery Registration Schedule & Location

Application and all required documents must be submitted and completed by **4PM on January 31, 2024.**

January 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Closed: New Year's Day – No Office Hours	2 First Day to Register	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Closed: MLK, Jr. Day – No Office Hours	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Last Day to Register Deadline is 4PM			Office Hours are 8:30AM- 3:30PM, M-F*

REGISTER ONLINE! → 

bit.ly/cpslottery

Student Registration Center (SRC)
 Cambridge Rindge & Latin School
 459 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138
 Phone: 617.349.6551 | Fax: 617.349.6552
www.cpsd.us | welcome@cpsd.us





Student Registration Center

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