



Frequently Asked Questions for Early Admission to Kindergarten Applicable to School Year 2024-2025

1. *What is the age of entry into kindergarten for school year 2024-2025?*
For school year 2024-2025, children must be five (5) years of age on or before September 1, 2024. The date of birth must fall between 9/2/2018 and 9/1/2019.
2. *What are my options if my child misses the cut-off date?*
 - Parents/guardians may request testing for early admission to kindergarten. In order to be eligible for early admission testing for school year 2024-2025, the child's fifth birthday must fall between 9/2/2024 and 10/14/2024. **Children whose fifth birthday falls beyond October 14, 2024, are not eligible for early admission to kindergarten.**
 - Early entrance to kindergarten is offered to children who demonstrate the need for grade acceleration in order to appropriately address their academic needs. Assessment for early entrance into kindergarten follows a process similar to that required to recommend grade acceleration for students currently enrolled in a Baltimore County Public School. A child must demonstrate skills that are two to three years above grade level in order to qualify for grade acceleration.
 - If a child is not eligible for early admission, the parent(s)/guardian(s) is encouraged to have their child screened for eligibility for prekindergarten.
3. *How do I apply for early admission to kindergarten testing for my child?*
Parent(s)/guardian(s) must submit a written request for early admission to kindergarten to the principal of the elementary school that serves the home address (home school) of parent(s)/guardian(s) residing in Baltimore County. The letter of request must include the following:
 - Name of the child
 - Child's date of birth
 - Name, address, phone number of parent(s)/guardian(s), and e-mail address
 - Reason why grade acceleration is being requested
4. *When can I apply for early admission to kindergarten for my child?*
Letters of request will be accepted between January 15, 2024, and May 1, 2024, for school year 2024-2025. **Note:** For students applying for a magnet program, early admission request must be submitted to the home school principal by no later than the published magnet application deadline. Assessment for students applying for enrollment in a magnet program will take place in January so that the recommendation decision for early admission may be forwarded to the Office of Magnet Programs by the last business day of January.

5. *What determines whether or not my child is recommended for early admission to kindergarten?*
A standardized assessment will be administered to your child. A child will be recommended for entrance into kindergarten prior to the age of entry guidelines established by the Maryland State Department of Education if he/she scores in the high average range on 7 out of 9 specified subtests of the *Woodcock Johnson IV Tests of Achievement*. Students who score in the high average range on 5 or 6 of the 9 subtests administered must subsequently score in the Advanced level or above on the 3 identified subtests of the *Woodcock Johnson IV Tests of Early Cognitive and Academic Development (ECAD)* in order to be recommended for early admission to kindergarten.
6. *When will my child be tested and how do I find the results of the testing?*
- A conference in person or by phone with a home school administrator will be scheduled **within two weeks** following the receipt of the written request for early admission testing.
 - **Unless other arrangements are mutually agreed upon**, testing will be conducted **at the home school within one month** following the conference with an administrator.
 - **Within ten (10) business days of the final testing session**, a written recommendation regarding early admission to kindergarten will be sent to the home.
7. *In what areas will my child be tested?*
Nine subtests will be administered to your child during the initial testing session. They include:
- Letter-Word Identification – identifying printed letters and words
 - Applied Problems – demonstrating knowledge of early math concepts
 - Spelling – demonstrating prewriting skills
 - Passage Comprehension – identifying a picture or key word in a passage
 - Calculation – performing mathematical computations
 - Writing Samples – communicating ideas in writing
 - Sentence Reading Fluency – reading and understanding short sentences quickly
 - Math Facts Fluency – quickly calculating math facts
 - Sentence Writing Fluency – writing short sentences quickly
- If a second testing session is required, three additional subtests will be administered, including:
- Letter-Word Identification – identifying printed letters and words
 - Number Sense – performing mental arithmetic
 - Writing – spelling orally presented words
8. *Can I be in the room with my child when he/she is tested?*
One parent/guardian may be in the room with his/her child during the testing session. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may also wait in a designated area of the school but may not leave the school building while his/her child is being tested.
9. *Can I prepare my child for the test?*
No preparation is needed for the assessment.
10. *Can my child take the test a second time?*
The assessment is only administered one time to each child.
11. *How long will the test take?*
Children respond differently to the testing. In order for short breaks to be taken by the child, plan for approximately two hours for the initial testing session and one hour if a second session is scheduled.

12. *My child's first language is not English, but I still want him/her tested. What can I do?*
The assessment is only administered in English. If an interpreter is used, his/her role is to ensure that the child **understands the directions** given by the test examiner.
13. *I just moved into Baltimore County and the date has passed for requesting early admission into kindergarten. Can I send a letter of request now?* Under certain conditions, a parent(s)/guardian(s) who moves into Baltimore County after the May 1, 2024, deadline may request early admission to kindergarten. In order for a request to be considered, the child's birthday must fall between September 2 and October 14, 2024, **AND** the request must be made by no later than the first day for students.
14. *Will testing for early admission to a nonpublic kindergarten be accepted for early admission to a Baltimore County kindergarten?*
No. Testing must be administered by a trained examiner at the home school and must occur in accordance with BCPS' 2024-2025 *Guidelines for Applying for Early Admission to Kindergarten*.
15. *My child will be attending a nonpublic kindergarten program in Maryland. Can he/she transfer from the nonpublic program into a BCPS' kindergarten during the school year?*
As per COMAR 13A.08.01.01C, "A child who resides in this state and attends a nonpublic kindergarten program for part of the year may transfer to a public kindergarten **if the child meets the minimum age requirement for admission to a public school kindergarten program....**"
For school year 2024-2025 the child must have **turned 5 by September 1, 2024.**
16. *My child does not meet the September 1 cut-off date but is currently enrolled in a public kindergarten in another Maryland jurisdiction or in another state. If I move, can my child transfer into a BCPS kindergarten program?*

Students moving into Baltimore County after the beginning of the school year, who were enrolled in and attended a **public kindergarten in Maryland must meet the age of eligibility requirement in order to be enrolled in kindergarten in a Baltimore County Public School.**

Students who were enrolled in and attending a **public kindergarten in any other state may be placed in kindergarten regardless of whether they meet the age of entry guidelines for Maryland.** Documentation confirming enrollment and attendance in a public kindergarten must be provided prior to registration in a BCPS kindergarten.

Appeal Process

Process for Appealing a School's Decision Concerning Early Admission to Kindergarten

1. A parent who does not agree with the early admission decision made by the home school principal may appeal that decision in accordance with the following process. All appeals must be in writing; no electronic communications will be accepted.
2. Appeal to the Executive Director
 - a. A decision of the principal to deny early admission to kindergarten under these guidelines may be appealed to the Executive Director of Academics (hereinafter, executive director).
 - b. The appeal must be made in writing and filed with the executive director **within fifteen (15) calendar days** of the date of the notice of early admission denial.
 - c. The appeal shall be mailed to:
Executive Director, Department of Academic Services
Baltimore County Public Schools
105 W. Chesapeake Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
 - d. The executive director, or his/her designee, will review the facts of the case and issue a final decision in writing.
3. Appeal to the Superintendent
 - a. If the appeal is denied or the party is not satisfied with the decision rendered by the executive director, he/she may further appeal that decision by filing an appeal with the superintendent.
 - b. The appeal must be made in writing and filed with the superintendent **within ten (10) calendar days** of the date of the executive director's decision.
 - c. The appeal shall be mailed to:
Office of the Superintendent
Attn: Charles Smith, Employee and Student Appeals
6901 Charles Street
Towson, Maryland 21204
 - d. The superintendent, or his/her designee, will review the facts of the case and issue a final decision in writing.
4. Appeal to the Board of Education
 - a. A decision of the superintendent, or his/her designee, regarding the denial of early admission to kindergarten may be appealed to the Board of Education of Baltimore County.
 - b. The appeal must be made in writing and filed with the Board **within thirty (30) calendar days** of the date of the superintendent's decision.
 - c. The appeal shall be mailed to:
Board of Education of Baltimore County
Attn.: Senior Executive Administrative Assistant to the Board
6901 Charles Street
Towson, Maryland 21204