



Advocates for Children of New York
Protecting every child's right to learn

Applying for 3-K and Pre-K!

and other early childhood options



For the 2025-2026 School Year



Today's Training

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Introductions

3-K & Pre-K Programs

Infant & Toddler Programs

Special Populations

3-K & Pre-K Applications

Head Start

Resources





What is Advocates for Children?

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AFC is an independent agency that protects the rights of all NYC students

Our Services:

- Helpline: **1-866-427-6033** (Mon-Thurs, 10am – 4pm)
- Free legal services to low-income families
- Guides and resources: www.advocatesforchildren.org
- Workshops and trainings
- Policy Advocacy and Impact Litigation



Early Childhood Program Options

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Infant &
Toddler

3-K

Pre-K

Head
Start



DOE 3-K

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schools.nyc.gov/3K

- Run by the DOE
- Starts in September of the year child turns 3
- All children are eligible to apply but not all children are guaranteed a seat
- Free school-day programs (6 hrs and 20 mins)
- Some programs offer extended hours and year-round services



DOE 3-K Settings

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District Schools

- DOE public elementary schools.
- Overseen by the school's principal.

Pre-K Centers

- Run by DOE offering pre-K and 3-K classes only.

NYC Early Ed. Centers

- NYC Early Education Centers are community-based organizations.

Family Child Care

- Home-based programs with licensed professionals for children from birth to three.



DOE Pre-K

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- Run by the DOE
- Starts in September of the year child turns 4
- All children who apply are guaranteed a seat
- Free school-day programs (6 hrs and 20 mins)
- Some programs offer extended hours and year-round services

schools.nyc.gov/PK



DOE Pre-K Settings

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District
Schools

Pre-K
Centers

NYC
Early
Ed.
Centers

Charter
Schools



DOE 3-K & Pre-K Seat Types



School Day

- 6 hrs and 20 mins
- 10-month school year
- Free
- All families are eligible

Extended Day/Year

- Up to 10 hours
- Year round
- Qualifying families
- Some families pay a small fee
- Immigration requirement

Head Start

- At least 8 hours
- Year round
- Qualifying families



3-K & Pre-K Application Processes

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Research

- Explore your options

Apply

- Rank programs

Offer

- Receive offer and register in late spring

Waitlists

- Hear from programs through summer



Before You Apply

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MySchools.
nyc

Explore Programs

Find a
School

Admissions
Guide



MySchools Directory

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MySchools.nyc is dedicated to our friend and colleague, Dave Yang, who spearheaded the creation of this enrollment platform, and who was a force for change and progress at NYC DOE.

NYC MYSCHOOLS

School Directory

Calendar

Enrollment Support

Help

English

Log In

151 WEST 30 STREET, MANHATTAN, NY 10001

Search by school name, interests, etc.

- Need a Seat for the 2024-25 School Year?
- District
- Setting Type
- Seat Type
- Dual Language
- Need Before or After School Care?
- Have a Child Applying to 3-K or Kindergarten?
- Accessibility
- Diversity in Admissions & Other Features

Bright Horizons At Chelsea (02MCDA)

NYCEEC | DISTRICT 02

0.3 Miles





MySchools Directory

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Filters

District

Setting Type

Seat Type

Accessibility

Program Information

Program and Seat Type

Contact Information

Admissions Priorities

Quality Snapshot

Other features (language)



MySchools Directory

Hudson Guild Children's Center (02MAUP)



NYCEEC | DISTRICT 02

0.6 Miles



Pre-K - Extended Day and Year (Eligibility Requirements)

MSH 507 LLC (02MCAC)

NYCEEC | DISTRICT 02

0.6 Miles



Pre-K - School Day

Sixth Avenue Elementary School (02M340)

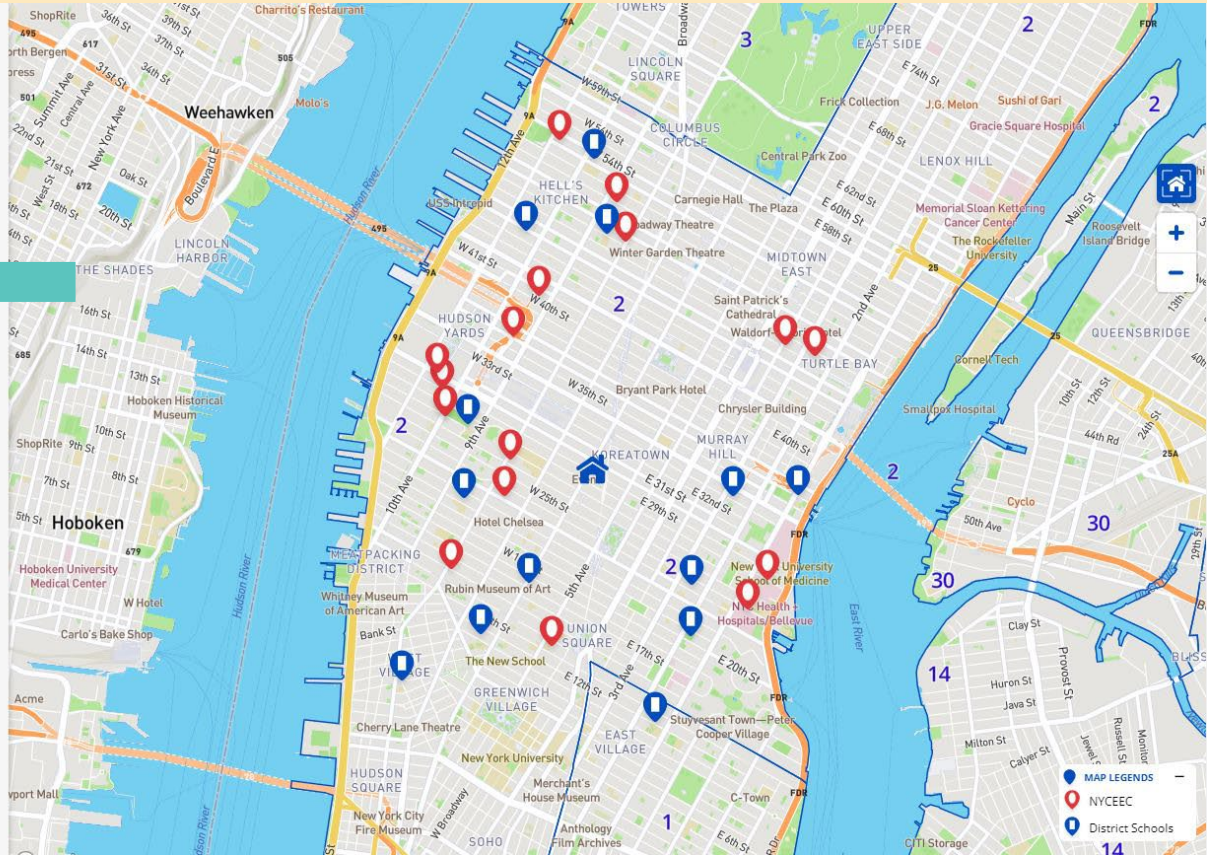


DISTRICT SCHOOL | DISTRICT 02

0.7 Miles



Pre-K - School Day



Trivia

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The DOE provides busing to preschoolers attending 3-K and Pre-K in the following settings:

- a) District Schools
- b) Pre-K Centers
- c) NYC Early Ed Centers
- d) All of the above
- e) None of the above





2025-2026 School Year Applications

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By February 28th

Apply to Pre-K

- Born in 2021

Apply to 3-K

- Born 2022

3 Ways to Apply

Online: [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov)

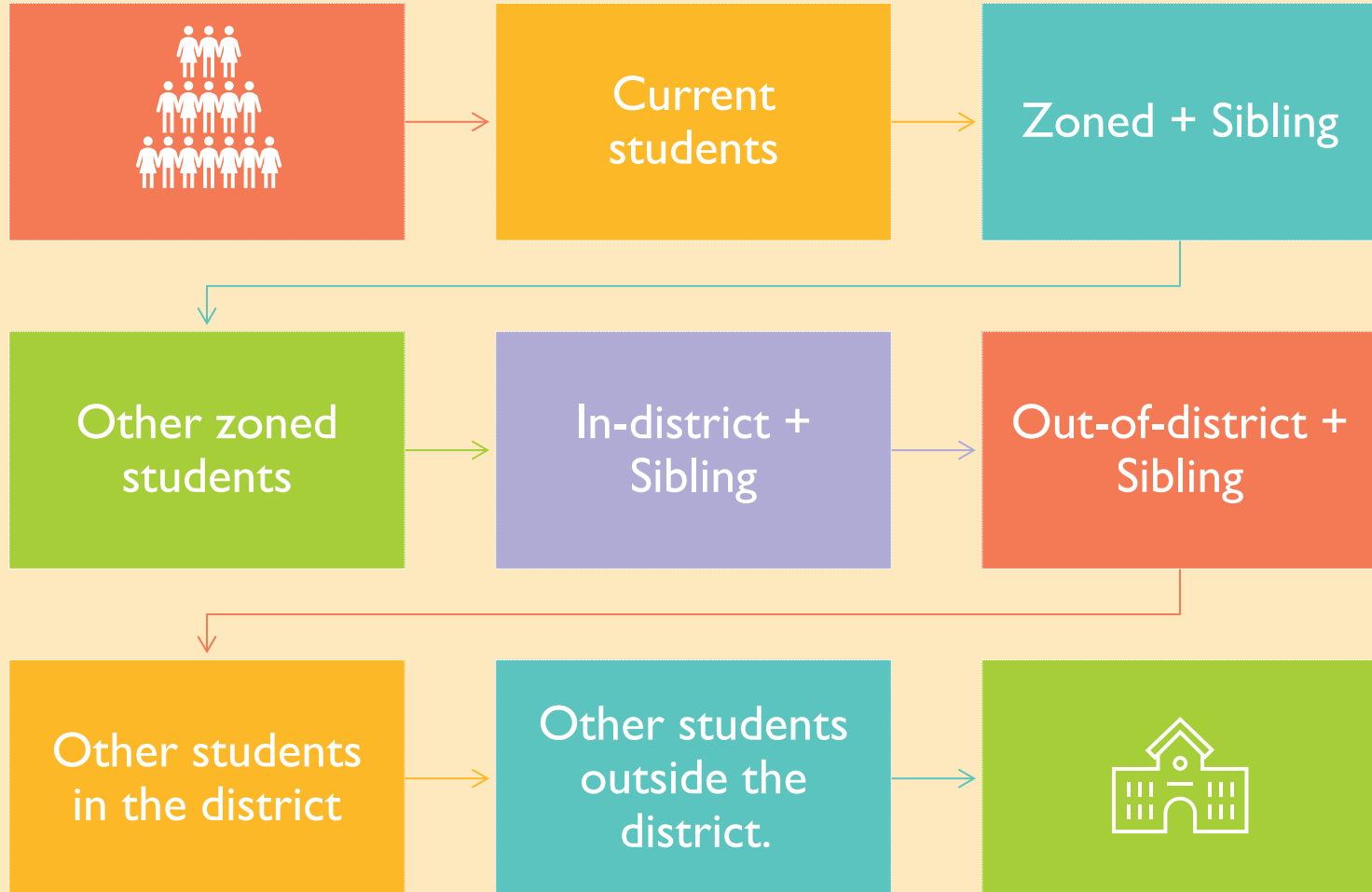
By Phone: 718-935-2009

[Family Welcome Centers](#)



Admissions Priorities: District Schools

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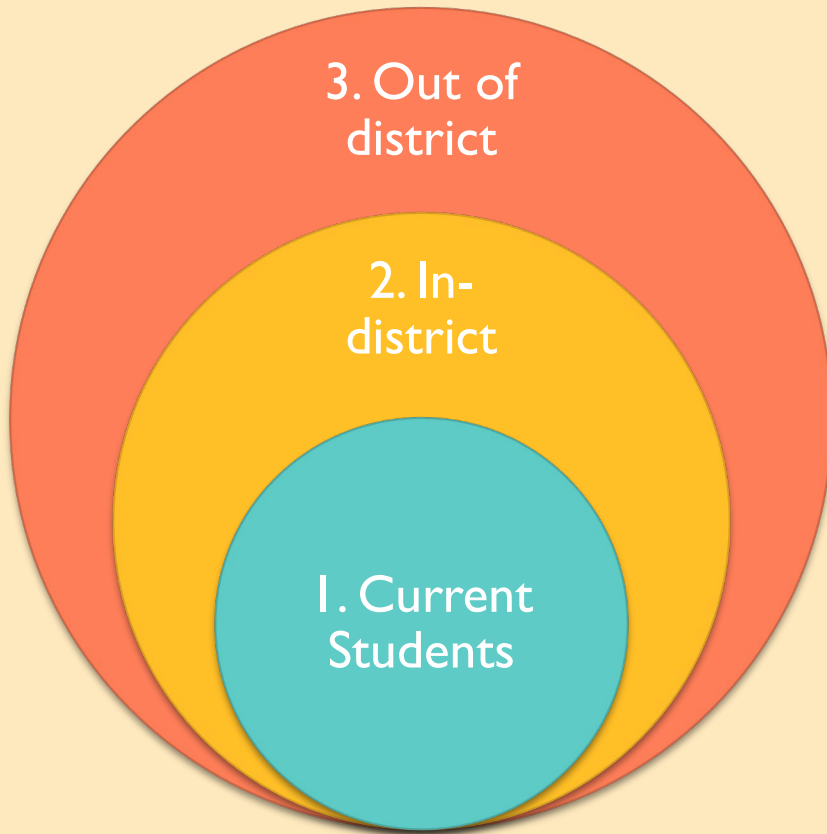




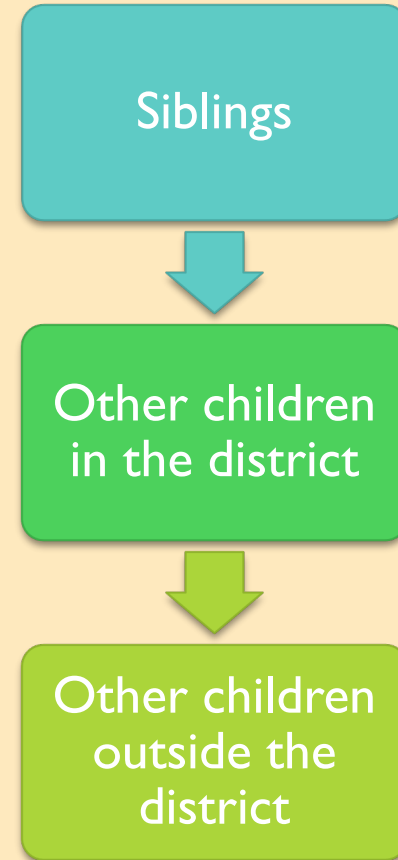
Admissions Priorities: Pre-K Centers

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- Pre-K



- 3-K





Admissions Priorities: NYC Early Education Centers

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Current students;

Siblings of current students;

Families receiving social services from the organization;

Students who speak a language other than English (for Pre-K);

All other students.



Trivia

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True or False

Children who attend a Pre-K program in a district school are guaranteed a seat in that school for kindergarten.



Application Process: Offers & Registration

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Receive an offer
in May



Accept offer and
register by date
on offer letter



Waitlists





Registration

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One Proof of Child's Age

- Birth certificate, passport, record of baptism

Two Proofs of Address

- Lease, deed, mortgage statement, utility bill, rent receipt, government ID

You do not need to provide proof of citizenship or a Social Security number.

Students in Temporary Housing have a right to immediate enrollment



MySchools.nyc: Need a Seat Now?

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- Find seats for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year for children born in 2021 (3-K) and 2020 (Pre-K)
- Contact programs directly to ask about seat and to register.



Applying to Charter Schools

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Find Pre-K programs
MySchools.nyc and
schools.nycharterschools.org

Contacts schools
directly to apply.

Free Public
School
Not Run By DOE

Most applications are
due by April 1st.

Usually admissions by
lottery.



Trivia

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True or False

Families have until February 28th to apply to Pre-K programs in Charter Schools.



Students in Temporary Housing

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Who

- Children living in a shelter, a motel, a car, bus or train, or with friends or relatives because family lost their housing or because of economic hardship.

Applying & Registering

- Use temporary address to apply
- Register even if you're missing documents

Immediate Enrollment

- If there is an open seat, child can attend even if you're missing documents

School Stability

- Can stay in program even if change address

Transportation

- Monthly MetroCard for parents
- Possibly busing

Help

- DOE Regional Managers
- Call AFC's Helpline!



Students in Foster Care

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Foster Care Agencies

- Provide Case Planners or Education Specialists
- Assist with application and enrollment process

Immediate Enrollment

- To programs with open seat
- Even if can't provide documentation

School Stability

- Can stay in program when child is placed in foster care or changes foster homes.

Transportation

- MetroCards
- Possibly busing



Students With Disabilities

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Can and should apply to 3-K and Pre-K programs!

Receive special education services

Add Seats

Accessible program

Help

SEIT and related services

Behavioral support



CPSE

718-935-2007



Students With Disabilities

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Students with more significant needs may require a more supportive setting.

Special Class in an Integrated Setting

- Smaller class size
- Students with and without IEPs
- Special education teacher

Special Class

- Small class size (6, 8, 12)
- All students with IEPs
- Special education teacher

The [CPSE](#) is responsible for finding a program for the child. The DOE will provide busing. Contact EarlyChildhoodBusing@schools.nyc.gov with transportation questions.



Trivia

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True or False



Families of children with disabilities should not apply to 3-K or Pre-K until after they've had an IEP meeting.



Emergent Multilingual Learners

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Dual Language Programs

- Instruction in English and another language, with the goal of helping all students to learn both languages

Enhanced Language Supports

- Supports to enhance language development

For Help

- Contact prekduallanguage@schools.nyc.gov



Infant & Toddler Programs

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- Run by the DOE
- Free and low-cost programs
- Serve children from 6 weeks old to 3 years
- Offer extended hours (up to 10) and year-round services
- Only for qualifying families



schools.nyc.gov/InfantsToddlers



Child Care Eligibility

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Infant & Toddler, Extended Day/Year Programs

Financial Need And Other Factors

- Public assistance, low income and need child care because of job or education, active cases with ACS, living in temporary housing, or receiving domestic violence services
- Some parents need to pay a fee based on a sliding scale

Resources

- To see if you are eligible, call 311, contact a [Family Welcome Center](#) or call a [Child Care Resource and Referral](#) agency.



Infant & Toddler Programs

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Finding Programs

- Call 311
- Visit [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov)

Apply

- Apply anytime
- Contact programs directly
- Visit [MyCity.nyc.gov](https://www.mycity.nyc.gov)

Help

- [Family Welcome Centers](#)
- [Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies](#)
- Email ccapplication@schools.nyc.gov



Promise NYC

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Child care assistance for children who do not qualify for state and federal child care

Eligibility

Child under 13 in NYC

Family doesn't qualify for other child care

Family income below 300% of the poverty level

Household Size	300% Poverty Level - 2025
2	\$63,450
3	\$79,950
4	\$96,450
5	\$112,950
6	\$129,450



Applying for Promise NYC

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Brooklyn — [Center for Family Life in Sunset Park](#)

- Call 718-438-9500
- Visit 443 39th St, Brooklyn NY 11232

Manhattan & Bronx — [Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation](#)

- Call 929-415-3999 Tuesdays 10 AM – 12 PM
- Email promisenyc@nmic.org

Queens — [Chinese-American Planning Council](#)

- Text 934-223-9652
- Email Robert Calabretta rcalabretta@cpc-nyc.org
- Complete [online form](#) (English)

Staten Island — [La Colmena](#)

- Complete online form ([English](#)) ([Español](#))
- Call (718)-442-7700 Monday–Fridays, 9 AM – 5 PM
- Email judith@lacolmenanyc.org
- Visit 774 Port Richmond Ave, Staten Island, NY 10302 or 88 Canal St, Staten Island NY 10304



Head Start

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Services

- Year round and longer hours
- Educational, health, nutrition, social, and other services

Age

- Early Head Start: Pregnant mothers, infants & toddlers
- Head Start: 3 to Kindergarten

Eligibility

- Low Income, Temporary Housing, Foster Care, or Receiving Public Assistance

Application

- Find a program
- Apply directly or through 3-K and Pre-K application



Language Access Rights: Translation & Interpretation

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Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Urdu

Translation:

- letters
- forms
- meeting notices
- special education documents

Interpretation:

- parent-teacher conferences
- parent association meetings
- meetings with school staff
- special education meetings

Request translation and interpretation at the child's school, or by completing the [Translation & Interpretation Request Form](#), by contacting the [Office of Language Access](#) or calling 311.



AFC Guides & Factsheets

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- Children with Disabilities
 - [Guide to Early Intervention](#)
 - [Guide to Preschool Special Education Services](#)
 - [Guide to Kindergarten Transition for Students with Disabilities](#)
 - [Transition to Kindergarten Fact Sheet](#)
- Programs & Admissions
 - [Applying to 3-K and Pre-K](#)
 - [Applying to Kindergarten Guide](#)





DOE Resources

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Enrollment

- [Family Welcome Centers](#)
- Office of Student Enrollment
 - Eenrollment@schools.nyc.gov
 - (718) 935-2009

Learn More

- schools.nyc.gov/3k
- schools.nyc.gov/PK
- schools.nyc.gov/InfantsToddlers



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Protecting every child's right to learn

Call us with questions!



Helpline: 866-427-6033 (toll free)
Monday-Thursday, 10am-4pm

info@advocatesforchildren.org