



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

Applying to 3-K and Pre-K!
and other early childhood options



For the 2026-2027 School Year

Intro Poll

*A link to a recording of this presentation and the slides will be emailed to everyone who registered.





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



**Advocates
for Children
(AFC)** is an
independent
agency that
protects the
rights of all
NYC
students.



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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3-K

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- Starts in September of the year child turns 3
- All children are eligible to apply
- Expanding to guarantee seats
- Free school-day programs (6 hrs and 20 mins)
- Some programs offer extended hours and year-round services

schools.nyc.gov/3K



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.



Questions?



Pre-K

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- 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



Pre-K Settings

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District
Schools

Pre-K
Centers

NYC
Early
Ed.
Centers

Charter
Schools



Trivia

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





3-K & Pre-K Seat Types

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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
- Additional eligibility requirements
- Some families pay a small fee

City Transitional

- At least 8 hours
- Year round
- Additional eligibility requirements



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

[Find a School](#)

Explore Programs

[3-K](#)

[Pre-K](#)



MySchools Directory

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Filters

District

Setting Type

Seat Type

Accessibility

Program Information

Program and Seat Type

Contact Information

Admissions Priorities

Other features (language)

Upcoming Events



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)

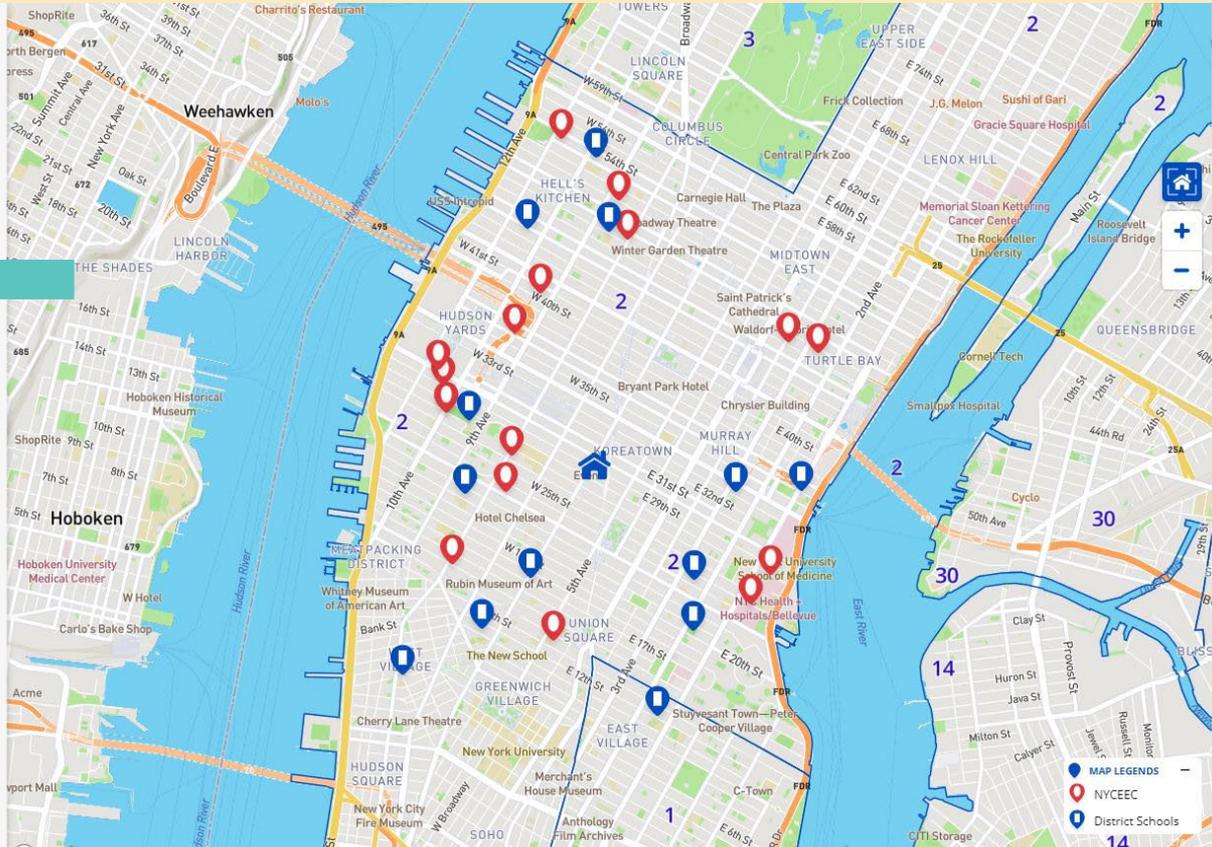


DISTRICT SCHOOL | DISTRICT 02

0.7 Miles



Pre-K - School Day





Questions?





2026-2027 School Year Applications

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By February 27th

Apply to Pre-K

- Born in 2022

Apply to 3-K

- Born 2023

3 Ways to Apply

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

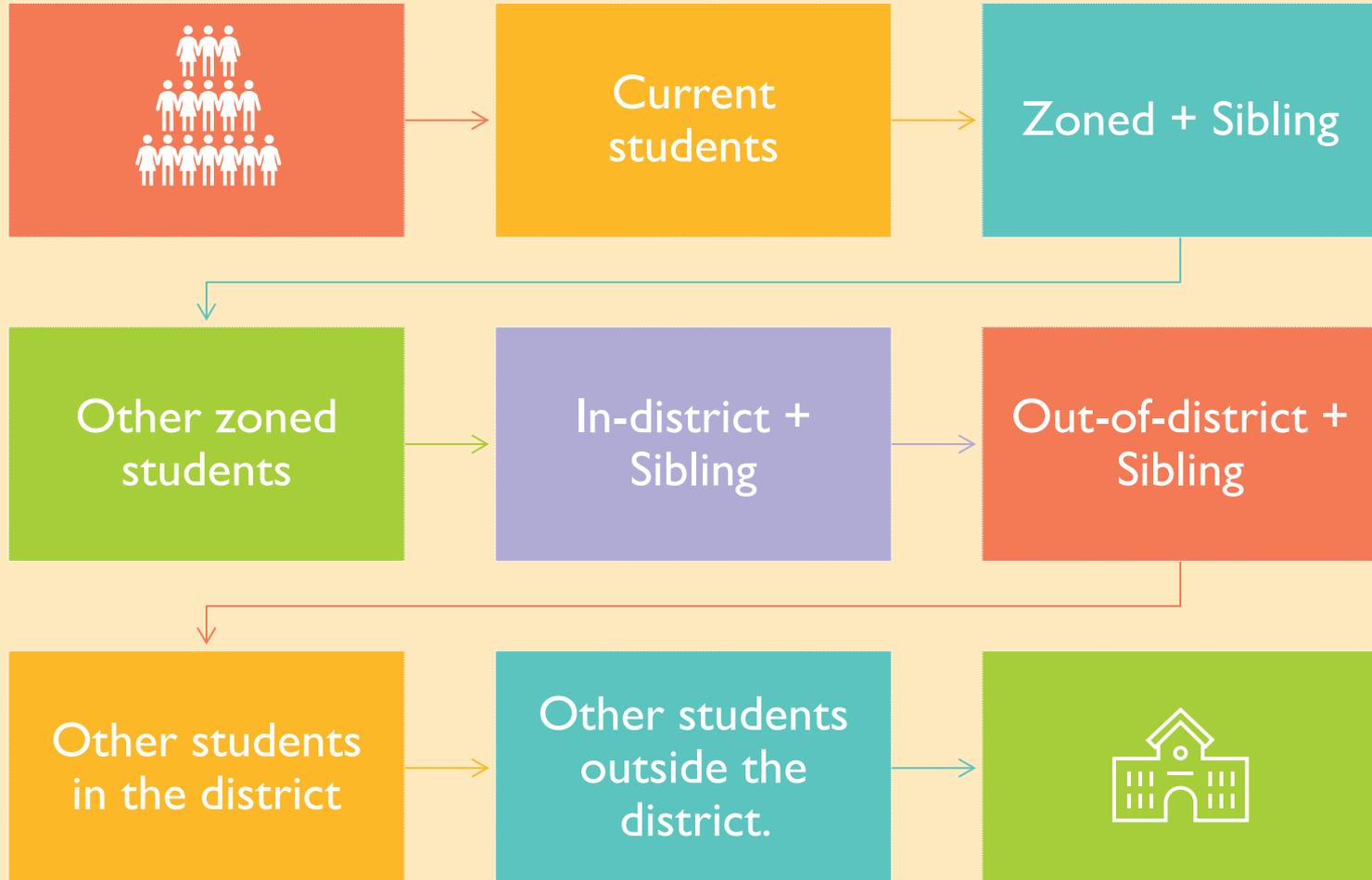
By Phone: 718-935-2009

[Family Welcome Centers](#)



Admissions Priorities: District Schools

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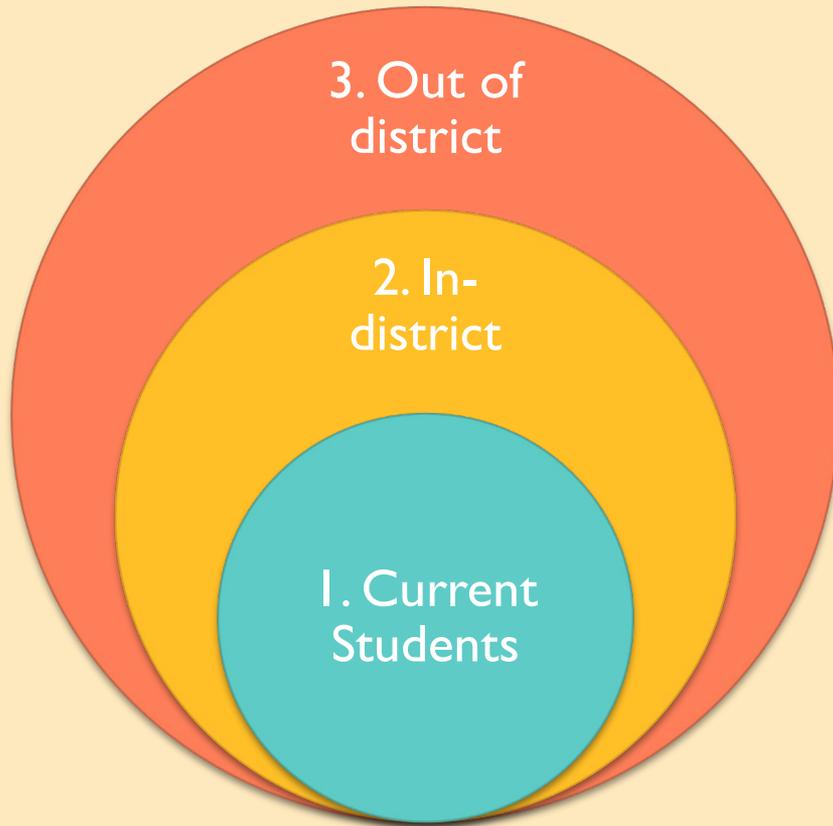




Admissions Priorities: Pre-K Centers

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- Pre-K



- 3-K



Trivia

Which child has the highest chances of receiving a Pre-K offer to a Pre-K Center?



- A child who has a sibling who will be attending the center next year
- A child currently attending 3-K in the center
- A child who lives in the school district
- A child who applies early





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

If your child is attending 3-K and you'd like them to remain in that program next year, you do not have to apply to Pre-K.



- a. True
- b. False



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 2025-2026 school year for children born in 2022 (3-K) and 2021 (Pre-K)
- Contact programs directly to ask about seat and to register.

Questions?





Applying to Pre-K in 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

Families have until February 27th to apply to Pre-K programs in Charter Schools.



- a. True
- b. False





Additional Rights

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Students in Temporary Housing

- Immediate Enrollment
- School Stability
- Transportation
- For additional support, contact:
 - [DOE Regional Managers](#)

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.

Children in Foster Care

- Immediate Enrollment
- School Stability
- Transportation
- For additional support, contact:
 - Foster Care Agency – Case Planner or Education Specialist



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

Families of children with disabilities should apply to 3-K or Pre-K now even if their child does not have an IEP yet.



- a. True
- b. False



Emergent Multilingual Learners

35

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



Questions?





Infant & Toddler Programs

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- 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
- Offered in NYC Early Education Centers and Family Child Care



schools.nyc.gov/InfantsToddlers



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



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.



New Programs

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Birth-to-Two Child Care Initiative

- Pilot started in Jan 2026
- Ages 6 weeks to 2 years
- Free
- Full day and year-round programs
- In limited zip codes
- No additional eligibility requirements

2-Care

- Starting in Sept 2026
- The year the child turns 2 years old
- Free
- Starting in limited school districts
- No additional eligibility requirements

Visit schools.nyc.gov/BrightStarts to learn more!



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 for City Transitional seats through 3-K and Pre-K application

Questions?





Language Access Rights: Translation & Interpretation

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You have the right to receive translation and interpretation services in NYC Public Schools

Spanish

French

Arabic

Chinese

Bangla

Urdu

Russian

Korean

Haitian-
Creole

Uzbek

Ukranian

Albanian

+ languages
not listed

Concerns or complaints regarding language access? 📞 718-935-2200
You can also submit a complaint by completing the online form [here](#).



AFC Guides & Factsheets

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Children with Disabilities

Programs & Admissions

Guide to Early Intervention

Guide to
Preschool Special
Education Services

Applying to 3-K
and Pre-K

Guide to Kindergarten
Transition for Students
with Disabilities

Transition to
Kindergarten Fact
Sheet

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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Call us with questions!



Helpline: 866-427-6033 (toll free)
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