

Applying to Kindergarten

for families of children born in 2020



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn



Transition to Kindergarten

2

- All children born in 2020 have the right to a public-school kindergarten seat in September 2025
- Two processes for families of children with disabilities:

Kindergarten
IEP

Special Education
Program and Services

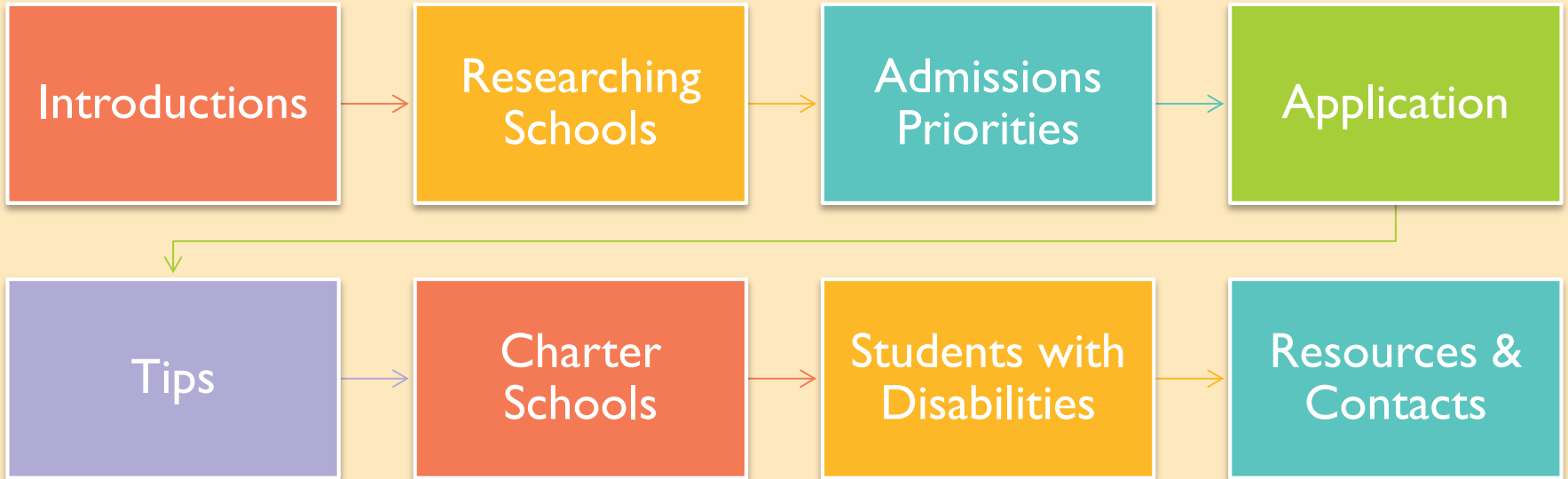
Kindergarten
Admissions

Applying to DOE
Schools



Today's Training

3





What is Advocates for Children (AFC)?

4

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



During the
DOE's
Kindergarten
Admissions
Process you
can apply to...



- a. DOE non-specialized schools**
- b. charter schools**
- c. private schools**
- d. all of the above**



Process Overview

7

Process is for District 1-32 Non-Specialized Schools

Research Schools

Apply this Winter

Receive Offer this Spring

Accept Offer this Spring

Hear from Waitlists





Researching Schools

8

Find Your Zoned School

- schoolsearch.schools.nyc
- [MySchools.nyc](https://myschools.nyc)
- Call 311

Research School Options

- Calendar of open houses [MySchools.nyc](https://myschools.nyc)
- [MySchools.nyc](https://myschools.nyc) online directory
- Inside Schools <http://insideschools.org>

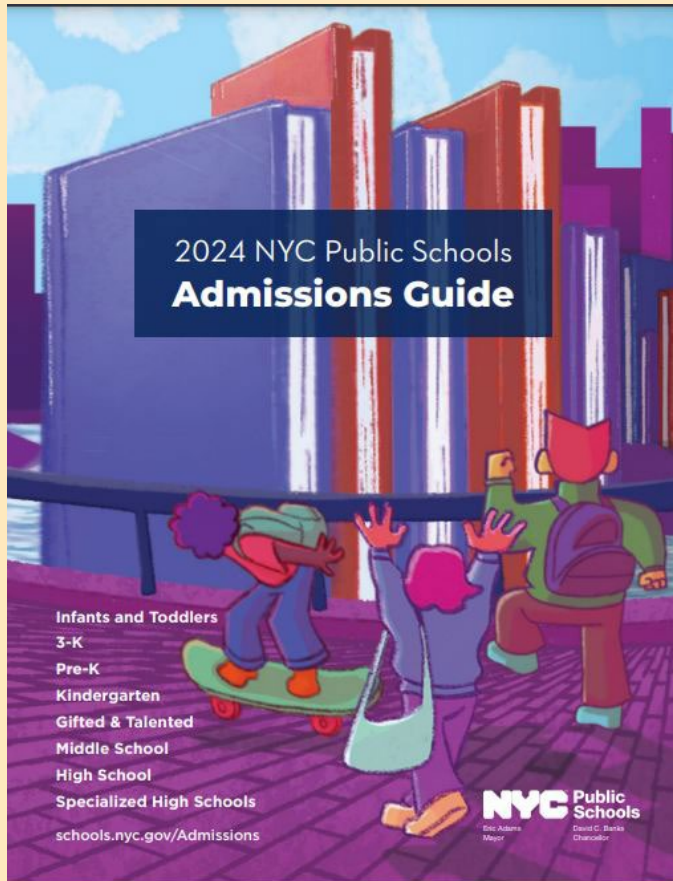
Understand Admissions Priorities

- schools.nyc.gov/kindergarten
- [2024 NYC Public Schools Admissions Guide](#)



Researching Schools

9



Admissions ACTION CHECKLIST

5.0 Kindergarten

Fill in the blanks as you use this checklist.

1 LEARN ABOUT KINDERGARTEN ADMISSIONS

- Sign up for our kindergarten and Gifted & Talented (G&T) admissions email lists at schools.nyc.gov/SignUp. We'll send you updates and reminders throughout the process.
- Read this guide. Check schools.nyc.gov/K and schools.nyc.gov/GT to get the most up-to-date information on this year's application timeline and admissions events.
- Come to an event about kindergarten admissions: I will attend an event on ___/___/___.

2 EXPLORE SCHOOLS

- Use MySchools.nyc to learn about kindergarten options, including dual language and Gifted & Talented programs. For a tutorial on how to use MySchools, see [Section 2.0](#).
- Learn which community school district (1-32) you live in and if your child has a zoned school by entering your address at schoolsearch.schools.nyc or calling 311.
- My school district is _____ and—*Choose one option:*
 - My child's zoned elementary school is _____.
 - OR**
 - My child does not have a zoned elementary school.
- Attend open houses or tours! Check the MySchools event calendar for dates, times, and locations, or visit programs' websites directly for the latest event updates, resources, and contact information.

3 MARK YOUR CALENDAR—AND APPLY!

- Learn when to apply to kindergarten. The kindergarten application deadline is ___/___/___.
- Apply to kindergarten by the deadline. How do you plan to apply? *Choose one option:*
 - Online at MySchools.nyc
 - By phone at **718-935-2009**
 - Through a Family Welcome Center—learn how at schools.nyc.gov/FWC

4 GET AND ACCEPT YOUR CHILD'S OFFER

- Receive your child's kindergarten offer! This offer letter will also include information about waitlists and next steps.
- My child's kindergarten offer is to this school: _____.
- Accept your offer online with MySchools or by contacting the school directly. Then set up a time with your new school to register.

39

schools.nyc.gov/kindergarten



Researching Schools

10

NYC MySchools is dedicated to our friends and colleagues, Don Yang, who spearheaded the creation of the enrollment platform, and who was a force for change and progress at NYC DOE.

NYC MYSCHOOLS Help English Log In

Welcome!

NYC families can use **MySchools** to apply to public school. Get started by creating an account. Then explore personalized school options and get guidance on it from start to finish.

Keep tabs on grades, emergency updates, progress towards credits and more with your [NYC Schools Account](#).

Get Started

Already have an account? [Log in here](#)

[Back to List](#)

P.S. 033 Chelsea Prep (02M033) ^

ZONED | DISTRICT 02

0.5 Miles 🚶 PK-5 [Print](#)

281 9 AVENUE, MANHATTAN, NY, 10001

<https://www.ps33chelseaprep.org> Bus
hscheidt@schools.nyc.gov BusM2, M11, M12, M14A, M14D, M20, M23-SBS, M34-SBS, M34A-SBS, M4, M7, Q32, X17, X22, X22A, X31

212-244-6626
Hanne Kjeldgaard

PK-5
665
8:20 AM - 2:40 PM
Special Education Programs
English Language Learner Programs
Shared Space: No

Performance

92% of students feel safe in the hallways, bathrooms, locker room, and cafeteria

98% of parents are satisfied with their child's education

[See the School Quality Snapshot](#)

Accessibility

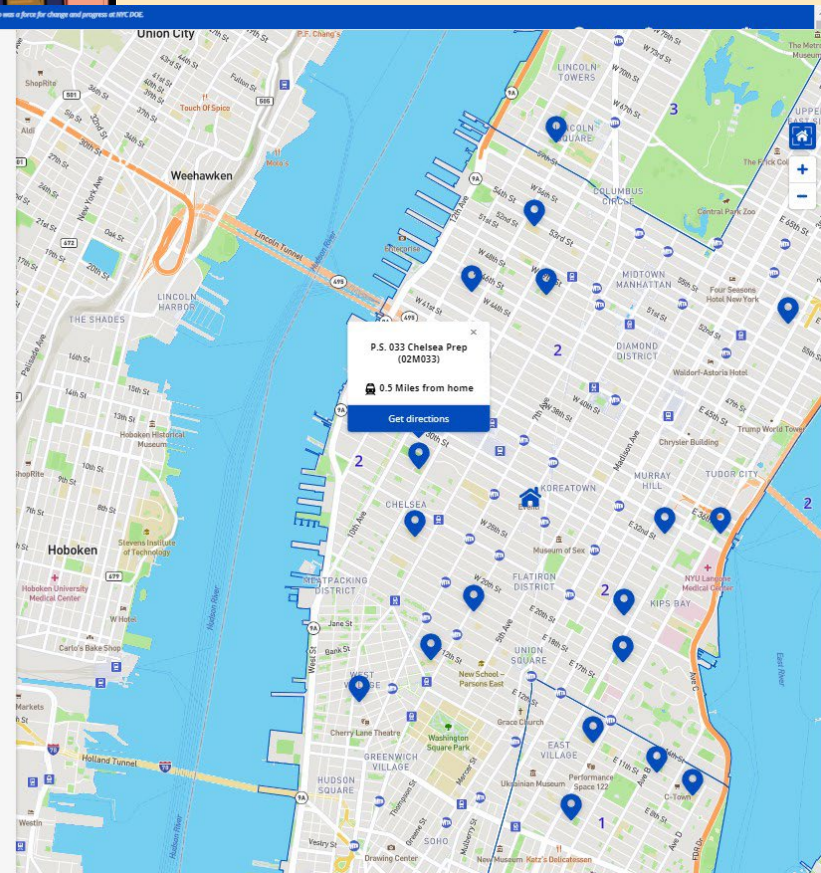
Fully Accessible

[Buildline Accessibility Profile](#)

Other Features

Late Pickup

☆ Kindergarten (02M033)





Kindergarten Admissions Priorities



Admissions Priorities for Zoned Schools:

(1, 2) Child lives in school zone

(3, 4) Sibling will also be attending the school

(5, 6) Child currently attends school's pre-K program

(7) Other students in district

(8) Other students outside the district



Students who need an accessible school will receive an offer before other students in their priority group.



Children are most likely to receive a kindergarten offer to...



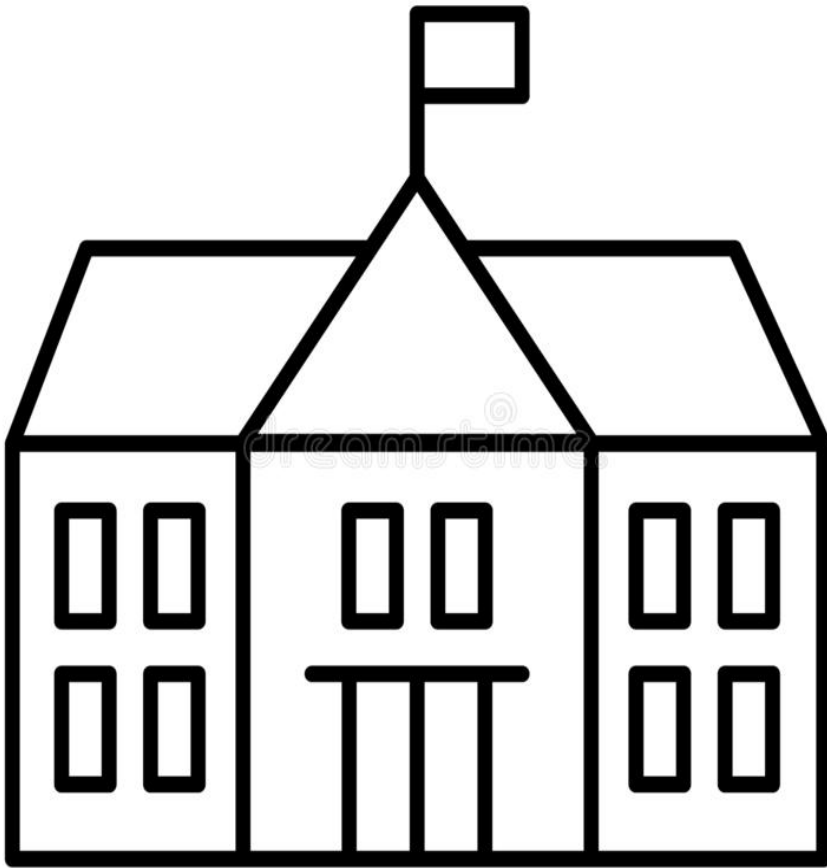
- a. the school they attended for Pre-K**
- b. the school their sibling(s) attend(s)**
- c. their zoned school**
- d. their top choice school**



Kindergarten Admissions Priorities

13

PS 123 (Zoned School)



PS 123 has 20 kindergarten seats. These students applied:

- 10 in-district students with a sibling at the school
- 5 zoned students
- 9 other in-district students
- 1 non-district student who attends Pre-K at PS 123



Who are the first students who will receive an offer to PS 123?



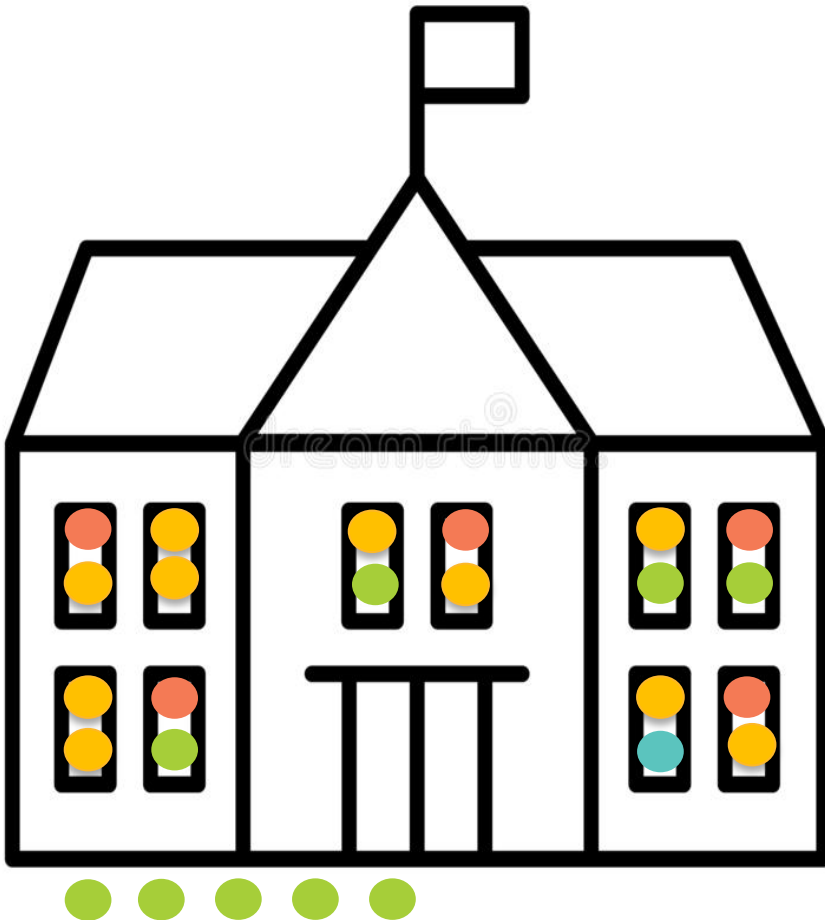
- a. zoned students**
- b. students who live in the district**
- c. students currently attending pre-k at PS123**
- d. students who apply first**



Kindergarten Admissions Priorities

15

PS 123 (Zoned School)



PS 123 has 20 kindergarten seats. These students applied:

- 10 in-district students with a sibling at the school
- 5 zoned students
- 9 other in-district students
- 1 non-district student who attends Pre-K at PS 123



Exceptions

16

- Non-Zoned School Districts (No Zoned-Schools)
 - District 1 – Lower East Side, Manhattan
 - District 7 – South Bronx
 - District 23 – Brownsville, Brooklyn
- Non-Zoned Schools Admissions Priorities
 - ↓ Sibling in the school
 - ↓ Pre-K student in the school
 - ↓ Live in school district
 - ↓ Live outside the school district
- For each school's admissions priorities, visit [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov).

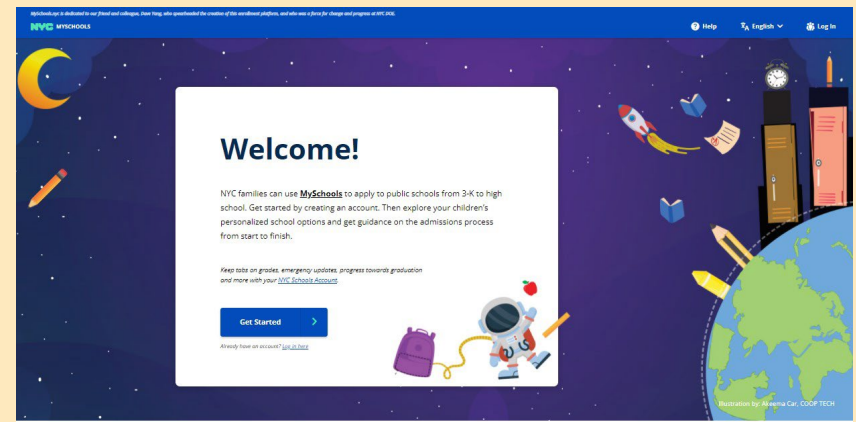


How to Apply

18

- Apply December 10, 2024 – January 24, 2025:

- Online at [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov)
- Call 718-935-2009
(Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm)
- Visit a [Family Welcome Center](#)



- You can apply in your preferred language!



Applying to G&T

19

Apply

- Apply to [Gifted and Talented](#) programs through the kindergarten application

Eligibility

- Preschool teacher will evaluate or
- DOE staff will schedule interview

Offers

- The DOE will make offers to eligible families based on admissions priorities (ex: sibling, in-district)



Tips

20

- Rank schools in order of preference!
- Think about:
 - admissions priorities
 - applying to your zoned school or a school that is likely to admit your child
 - transportation





Transportation

21

On IEP



Door-to-Door

School is more than 1/2 mile from home and in district



School-to-Stop Bus

MetroCard/OMNY

Students in temporary housing & in foster care



EarlyChildhood
Busing@schools.
nyc.gov

718-392-8855

[schools.nyc.gov/
transportation](https://schools.nyc.gov/transportation)



After Applying

23

Offers

Waitlist



Accept &
Register

Medical &
Reasonable
Accommodations
Transfers





Registration

24

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



When you accept a kindergarten offer and register your child at the school, you are...



- a. taking your child off the waitlist for other schools**
- b. reserving a seat for your child at that school**
- c. no longer eligible to apply to charter schools**
- d. all of the above**

Charter Schools

26

Find schools here:
nyccharterschools.org.

Apply to a school directly or
online at
nyccharterschools.org/apply.

Free Public School
Not Run By DOE

Charter schools must serve
students with disabilities.

Most applications are due by
April 1st.





Students with Disabilities

27



PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE (NOTICE OF RECOMMENDATION)

Dear Parent or Guardian of JOHN DOE

Student's DOB: 00/00/2013 Local ID: 123456789

Date: 06/15/2018

The purpose of this notice is to inform you, in writing, of the school district's recommendation(s) regarding the identification, evaluation, educational placement and/or provision of special education services to JOHN DOE.

SUBJECT OF THIS NOTICE: School Location

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION PROPOSED OR REFUSED:

The Committee on Special Education recommended that your child be identified as having an educational disability, specifically: Speech or Language Impairment

The Committee recommended that your child receive the following educational program.

10 Month School Year
Placement
NYC DOE School Non-Specialized (District 1-32)

Special Education Services
Integrated Co-Teaching Services

Related Services/ Supplementary Aids and Services/ Assistive Technology
Occupational Therapy(Individual), Physical Therapy(Individual), Speech-Language Therapy(Group)

You may bring your child to the following school on 09/04/2018 where he/she will receive these services:

Name: P.S. 117 J. Keld / Briarwood School
Address: 85-15 143 STREET, QUEENS, NY, 11435
Telephone Number: 718-526-4780

You may also visit this school by contacting the people listed below for assistance in arranging a visit:

Before 6/28/2018, Contact: Devoard Owens Telephone Number: 718-526-4780
Address: 85-15 143 Street, Queens, NY, 11435

On or after 6/28/2016, Contact: Fabiana Czemerinski Telephone Number: 718-557-2553
Address: 90-27 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY, 11435

EXPLANATION OF WHY THE ACTION IS PROPOSED OR REFUSED:

At the meeting held on 03/18/2016, to which you were invited, the assessments and materials identified below were reviewed and discussed and it was determined that your child meets the eligibility criteria for an educational disability as defined in Part 200 of the regulations of the Commissioner of Education. In addition, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) was developed recommending the special education and related services that will meet his/her educational needs. The school listed above was chosen because it can provide the program and services on your child's IEP.

DESCRIPTION OF EACH EVALUATION PROCEDURE, ASSESSMENT, RECORD, OR REPORT USED IN THE DECISION TO PROPOSE OR REFUSE THE ACTION:

Check to make sure the school on your School Location Letter (SLL) can give your child the services and program on their IEP!



Language Access Rights: Translation & Interpretation

29

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

Translation:

- letters
- forms
- meeting notices
- progress reports
- special education documents

Interpretation:

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

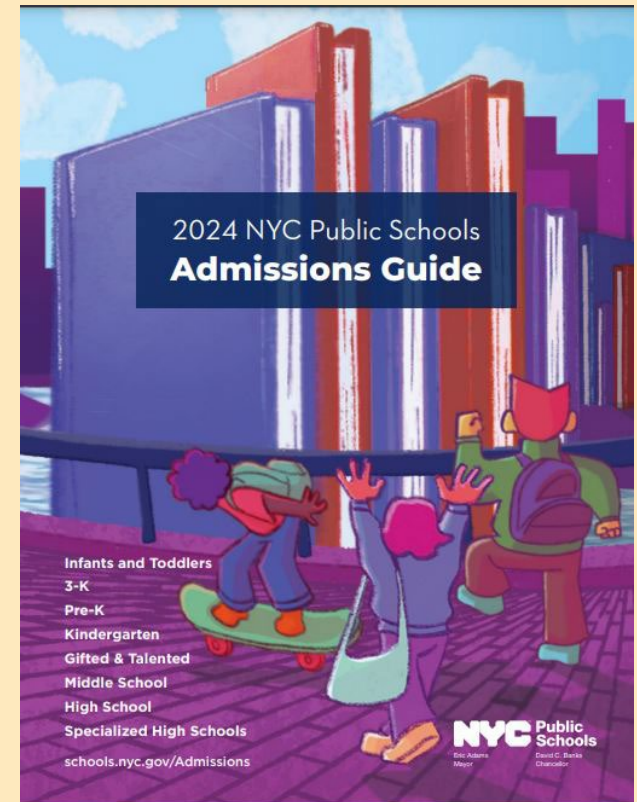
Request translation and interpretation at the child's school, or by completing the [Translation & Interpretation Request Form](#), by contacting the [Office of Language Access](#), or calling 311.



Application Resources

30

- AFC's [Applying to Kindergarten Guide](#)
- DOE Resources
 - [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov/)
 - [schoolsearch.schools.nyc](https://www.schoolsearch.schools.nyc.gov/)
 - schools.nyc.gov/K
 - 2024 NYC [Public School Admissions Guide](#)





Additional Support

31

Family Welcome Centers

- Located throughout the City
- schools.nyc.gov/FWC

DOE Office of Student Enrollment

- ESEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov
- 718-935-2009

Advocates for Children

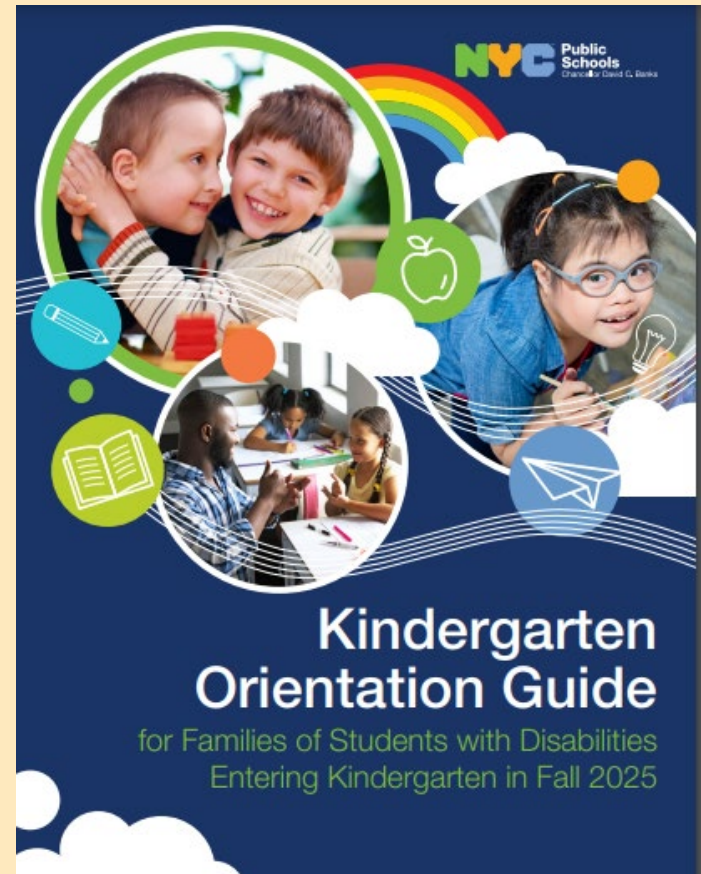
- Helpline: 866-427-6033 (toll free)
- Monday-Thursday, 10am-4pm



Special Education Resources

32

- AFC's [Transition to Kindergarten Guide](#)
- DOE Resources
 - [Kindergarten Special Education](#)
 - ✦ Kindergarten Orientation Guide
 - [District 75](#)
 - [Specialized Programs](#)





Special Education Resources

33

- DOE Kindergarten Orientation Meetings
 - [Live Sessions](#)
 - [Pre-recorded sessions](#)

Kindergarten Orientation Meetings

for Families of Students with Disabilities Born in 2020

LIVE WEBINAR (Online)
Must register in advance by going to <https://www.gotomeeting.com/webinar/join-webinar> and entering Webinar ID for the date you would like to attend.

Date	Day	Time	Webinar ID	Notes
NOV 7	THURSDAY	6:00pm – 7:30pm	567-609-875	
DEC 3	TUESDAY	9:30am – 11:00am	931-103-355	
DEC 5	THURSDAY	6:00pm – 7:30pm	501-476-499	SPANISH ONLY
JAN 21	TUESDAY	9:30am – 11:00am	808-237-083	SPANISH ONLY
JAN 23	THURSDAY	9:30am – 11:00am	242-888-859	

To Register for Webinar, scan the QR code > or visit <https://www.gotomeeting.com/webinar/join-webinar>
Enter Webinar ID to complete and submit the registration form.



Please join us to learn more about a Kindergarten Individualized Education Program (IEP), special education services for school-age students, and applying to Kindergarten!

- All meetings cover the same information. Families are welcome to attend any meeting that is convenient for them. Registration is required for online webinars.
- Meetings will begin promptly. Please log in 15 minutes early prior to start time.
- If you need interpretation for Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, or Urdu, please visit schools.nyc.gov/KindergartenSpecialEducation to view our webinar with provided closed captioning.





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

Call us with questions!



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

info@advocatesforchildren.org