



Kent County Public Schools

Growing a Community of Leaders

Frequently Asked Questions

about Early Admission to Kindergarten

1. What is the age of entry into kindergarten for school year 2023-2024

For school year 2023-2024 children must be five (5) years of age on or before September 1, 2023. The date of birth must fall before 9/1/2018.

2. What are my options if my child misses the cut-off date?

Parents/guardians may request testing for early admission into kindergarten. In order to be eligible for early admission testing the child's date of birth must fall between 9/2/2018 and 10/14/2018. Children whose fifth birthday falls beyond October 14, 2018, are not eligible for early admission to kindergarten.

3. How do I apply for early admission to kindergarten testing for my child?

Parent(s)/guardian(s) may pick up an application packet at their home school.

4. When can I apply for early admission to kindergarten for my child?

Applications must be completed and submitted to the home school principal on or before July 1, 2023, for school year 2023-2024. Upon receipt of the application, the school principal or designee will schedule a meeting with the parent or guardian to discuss the request, process, criteria, and assessments. If early admission is still requested, following the meeting, A Consent for Assessment Form will be completed by the parent/guardian and co-signed by the administrator. Parents are encouraged to observe a Kindergarten and First Grade classroom while school is in session.

5. What is involved in the testing process?

A date is scheduled to determine the testing process. A standardized assessment will be administered to your child. Parents are interviewed.

6. What determines whether or not my child is recommended for early admission to kindergarten?

The principal will review the assessment results and application to make a final decision about early admission. A letter informing the parent of the assessment results and decision will be mailed to the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian may request a meeting with the principal to discuss the assessments and/or the decision. If the parent/guardian does not agree with the principal's decision, an appeal may be filed in writing to the Superintendent of Schools.

7. What are the next steps after the placement decision?

All cases of early admission will be on an initial trial basis for a period of six weeks. Following the six weeks, the team will meet and determine if the child will remain in his/her placement. Prior to the completion of the school year, a meeting will be held at the school level to analyze the child's performance for the year and to make a judgment as to whether the child is ready to move to the next level for the upcoming year.

8. Will testing for early admission into a nonpublic kindergarten be accepted for early admission into a Kent County kindergarten?

No. Testing must be administered by a trained examiner at the home school and must occur in accordance with KCPS' Guidelines for Applying for Early Admission to Kindergarten.

9. My child will be attending a nonpublic kindergarten program in Maryland. Can he/she transfer from the nonpublic program into a KCPS' 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 2023-2024 the child must have turned 5 by September 1, 2023.

10. My child does not meet the September 1 cut-off date but is currently enrolled in a public kindergarten in another Maryland jurisdiction. If I move, can my child transfer into a KCPS kindergarten program?

Students moving into Kent County after the beginning of the school year, who were enrolled in a public kindergarten in Maryland or in 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 in a public kindergarten must be provided prior to registration in a KCPS kindergarten.

KENT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM	Procedure Number: 600-38
Curriculum and Instruction	Date of Review by Board: 06/04/07, 09/14/15
Subject: Early Admission to Pre-Kindergarten	Date Revised: 08/31/15

Kent County Public Schools have developed a process and guidelines for **Early Admission to Pre-Kindergarten**. The purpose is to provide guidelines for enrolling students into Pre-Kindergarten when they do not meet the mandatory age requirement. Applicants for early admission to Pre-Kindergarten will be considered only after all age eligible applicants at the school have been placed in Pre-Kindergarten.

A Kent County parent/guardian may request early admission into Pre-Kindergarten if their child meets all of the following admission criteria:

- The child is economically disadvantaged (eligible for free and reduced meals) or is homeless.
- The child turns four (4) years of age within 6 weeks or less after the September 1 entrance date as established by the Maryland State Department of Education.
- The child demonstrates emotional need.
- The child is toilet trained.

Early Admission to Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines:

I. Application

- A. Parents/Guardians may request the application packet for **Early Entrance to Pre-Kindergarten** from their home school office. The school principal or designee will meet with the parent to review the admission criteria and process.
- B. Parents/guardians must complete the application for **Early Entrance to Pre-Kindergarten** and should submit the completed application to the school principal prior to July 1. Exceptions will be made for the students moving to Kent County after July 1.
- C. Principals will review all completed applications for **Early Entrance to Pre-Kindergarten** to ensure compliance with the following admission criteria.
 - a. The child is economically disadvantaged (eligible for free or reduced meals) or is homeless.
 - b. The child turns four (4) years of age within 6 weeks or less after the September 1 entrance date as established by the Maryland State Department of Education.
 - c. The child is toilet trained.
- D. Upon approval by the school principal, all eligible **Early Entrance to Pre-Kindergarten** applicants will be scheduled for screening assessments. An **Early Entrance to Pre-Kindergarten Consent for Assessment Form** will be completed by the parent/guardian and signed by the administrator. Each school will maintain a record of all applications and record actions taken on the *Process and Report Form*.
- E. If the enrollment is at or approaching capacity, the child may be denied early admittance to Pre-Kindergarten and referred to Child Find in the Office of Special Education.

II. Assessment

- A. The school principal will administer the initial screening assessment given to all age eligible Pre-Kindergarten students.
- B. If the screening falls below the identified cut-off score, the school principal will submit the student information to the Office of Sepcial Education for additional testing.

- C. A date will be scheduled to begin the testing process.
- D. The assessments will be administered between July 1 and September 1. An assessment data report will be completed and returned to the school principal.

III. Eligibility Decision

- A. The principal, in consultation with the Elementary Education and Special Education Supervisors, will review the assessment results and application to make a decision about early admission.
- B. A meeting will be scheduled with the parent, principal and school psychologist to review the assessment results and the early entrance to Pre-Kindergarten decision.
- C. A copy of the **Early Entrance to Pre-Kindergarten Process and Report Form** must be filed and maintained with the Office of Special Education. The original copy will be placed in the student's record.
- D. If the parent/guardian does not agree with the early admission decision an appeal may be filed with the Superintendent of Schools,.

IV. Placement Decision

- A. If early admission is approved, the parent will be directed to complete the official school registration process.
- B. All cases of early admission will be on an initial trial basis for a period of six weeks.
- C. Following the six-week trial period, the evaluation team should meet and consider information related to the child's ability to function successfully at the grade level as reflected through observations and documentation made by members of the evaluation team and the classroom teacher. If the evaluation team agrees the child is functioning satisfactorily, then the child should remain in his/her placement. If the evaluation team agrees that the child is not functioning satisfactorily, then the child will be referred to the student support team for appropriate placement.
- D. Prior to the completion of the school year, a meeting will be held at the school level with the evaluation team and parent to plan appropriately for a second year of Pre-Kindergarten. Advancing to the next grade level is not an option for students admitted due to early entrance criteria.

**Application for Early Entrance
Pre-Kindergarten Program**
Office of Pupil Services
Kent County Board of Education
5608 Boundary Avenue
Rock Hall, MD 21661

Please complete this application if your child is income eligible for Pre-Kindergarten and demonstrates an educational need.

Child's Name _____ Birth Date _____
Last First MI

Home Phone _____ - _____ - _____ Sex: _____ Male _____ Female Race _____

Address _____
Street City State

Zip _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Work Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Preschool Experience

List the nursery schools, Head Start, special education program, and other daycare programs attended. Include the dates of attendance and the approximate number of hours per week attended.

Name of School/Program Hours/Week	Dates of Attendance	#
_____	____/____/____ - ____/____/____	_____
_____	____/____/____ - ____/____/____	_____
_____	____/____/____ - ____/____/____	_____

Why do you feel that your child needs a Pre-Kindergarten program. Comment on your child's social behavior and academic skills. (Use reverse side, if needed.)

____/____/____

Signature, Parent/Guardian

Date

*Attach any additional evaluations completed by outside professionals. (If applicable.)
Applications are due in the Office of Pupil Services or your home school by July 1.

KENT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM	Procedure Number: 600-37
Curriculum and Instruction	Date of Review by Board: 06/04/07, 09/14/15
Subject: Early Admission to Kindergarten	Date Revised: 08/31/15

Kent County Public Schools have developed a process and guidelines for **Early Admission to Kindergarten**. The purpose is to provide guidelines for enrolling students into Kindergarten when they do not meet the mandatory age requirement. Applicants for early admission to Kindergarten will be considered only after all age eligible applicants at the school have been placed in kindergarten.

A Kent County parent/guardian may request early admission into Kindergarten if their child meets the following admission criteria:

- The child turns five (5) years of age within 6 weeks or less after the September 1 entrance date established by the Maryland State Department of Education.
- The child demonstrates exceptional achievement and ability on standardized tests.

The procedures for requesting early admission to Kindergarten are conducted at the child's home school. Additional copies of the process and guidelines may be obtained from the student's home school.

Early Admission to Kindergarten Guidelines:

I. Application

- A. Parents/Guardians may pick up **Early Entrance to Kindergarten** application packets at their home school..
- B. Parents/guardians must complete the application for **Early Entrance to Kindergarten** and submit the completed application to the home school principal on or before July 1 of the year prior to the admittance year. Exceptions will be made for students moving to Kent County after July 1.
- C. Upon receipt of the **Early Entrance to Kindergarten Application**, the school principal or designee will schedule a meeting with the parent to discuss the early admission request, process, criteria, and assessments.

II. Assessment

- A. If early admission to kindergarten is still requested following the meeting, an **Early Entrance to Kindergarten Consent For Assessment Form** will be completed by the parent/guardian and signed by the administrator.
- B. Parents/guardians are encouraged to observe a kindergarten and grade one class.
- C. The school principal will submit the student's information to the Office of Special Education.
- D. A date will be scheduled to begin the testing process which may include a parent interview.
- E. The assessments will be administered between July 1 and September 1. An assessment data report will be completed and returned to the school principal.

III. Eligibility Decision

- A. The principal, in consultation with the Elementary Education and Special Education Supervisors, will review the assessment results and application to make a decision about early admission.

- B. A meeting will be scheduled with the parent, principal and school psychologist to review the assessment results letter will be provided notifying parents informing the parent/guardian of the assessment results and the early entrance to Kindergarten decision will be mailed.
- C. A copy of the *Early Entrance to Kindergarten Process and Report Form* must be filed and maintained with the Office of Special Education The original copy will be placed in the student's record.
- D. If the parent/guardian does not agree with the early admission decision an appeal may be filed with the Superintendent of Schools.

IV. Placement Decision

- A. All cases of early admission will be on an initial trial basis for a period of six weeks.
- B. Following the six-week trial period, the evaluation team should meet and consider information related to the child's ability to function successfully at the grade level as reflected through observations and documentation made by members of the evaluation team and the classroom teacher. If the evaluation team agrees the child is functioning satisfactorily, then the child should remain in his/her placement. If the evaluation team agrees that the child is not functioning satisfactorily, then the child will be referred to the student support team for appropriate placement.
- C. Prior to the completion of the school year, a meeting will be held at the school level to analyze the child's performance for the year and to make a judgment as to whether the child is ready to move to the next level for the upcoming year.

**Application for Early Entrance
Kindergarten Program**
Office of Pupil Services
Kent County Board of Education
5608 Boundary Avenue
Rock Hall, MD 21661

Please complete this application if you feel that your child demonstrates the academic achievement, social, and emotional maturity appropriate for kindergarten placement.

Child's Name _____ Birth Date ____/____/____
Last First MI

Home Phone _____ - _____ - _____ Sex: ____ Male ____ Female Race _____

Address _____
Street City State

Zip _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Work Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Preschool Experience

List the nursery schools, Head Start, special education program, and other daycare programs attended. Include the dates of attendance and the approximate number of hours per week attended.

Name of School/Program Hours/Week	Dates of Attendance	#
_____	____/____/____ - ____/____/____	_____
_____	____/____/____ - ____/____/____	_____
_____	____/____/____ - ____/____/____	_____

Why do you feel that your child would be ready for a kindergarten program? Comment on your child's social behavior and academic skills (Use reverse side, if needed.)

____/____/____

Signature, Parent/Guardian

Date

*Attach any additional evaluations completed by outside professionals. (If applicable.)

Applications are due in the Office of Pupil Services or your home school by July 1.