



September
1 Start School!
 The first day of kindergarten in the Boston Public Schools typically begins the Monday following Labor Day, but some schools may begin earlier. Visit our website for updated information.

On the Countdown!

5 Visit & Choose Schools	November - January	4 Register for Schools	January	3 Visit Your New School	March - June	2 Get Ready for School	July - August
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Families who are enrolling children in kindergarten for the following school year should get their school list at: www.discoverBPS.org
 Meet school principals and teachers and see students' school work at the **Showcase In Our Schools** in every early education, elementary, and K-8 school on **December 5, 2015**.
 Visit additional schools during **School Preview Times, December 7, 2015-January 22, 2016**.
 We strongly encourage you to list at least five schools (more is better) on the registration form and bring with you All the required documents.
 If you are registering for K2 and English is not your child's first language, while at the Welcome Center, your child will be scheduled for an English Language Assessment at the Newcomer Assessment and Counseling Center (NACC). The process for registration will take two visits.
 Sometimes between April through June your child's new school will invite you to a **Welcome Session** to visit classrooms, talk to the principal and teachers, and meet other new families.
 Join us at a **Kindergarten Day Party** at your local library
 Mark your calendars for the **17th Annual Countdown to Kindergarten** Celebration at the Boston Children's Museum, on **Tuesday, August 30, 2016**.
 Bus assignments will be mailed in late August.
 Families who registered in the first round (January 4 - January 29, 2016) typically receive their school assignments in the mail in late March.
 Be sure to pick up your **free "I'm Going to Kindergarten" T-shirt** at your local library and check out the free events for kindergarten families around the city.
 You can save time during your visit if you pre-register online using: <https://sis.mybps.org>
 Visit any Welcome Center (WC) to register.
 First Round Registration - Jan. 4 - 29, 2016

contact information

phone numbers

Countdown to Kindergarten.....	(617) 635-6816 or (617) 635-9288
Boston Public Schools	(617) 635-9000
Boston School Committee	(617) 635-9014
English Language Learners	(617) 635-9435
Food and Nutrition Services	(617) 635-9144
Health Services	(617) 635-6788
Homeless Education Resource Network	(617) 635-8037
Newcomer Assessment and Counseling Center	(617) 635-1565
Office of Engagement	(617) 635-7750
BPS Hotline (Jan., Aug., Sept)	(617) 635-9046
Special Education	(617) 635-8599
Transportation	(617) 635-9520

websites

Countdown to Kindergarten
www.countdowntokindergarten.org
Discover BPS
www.discoverbps.org
Online Pre-registration
<https://sis.mybps.org>
Boston Public Schools
www.bostonpublicschools.org
BOSTONavigator
(Out-of-School Time programs in Boston):
www.bostonnavigator.org
Talk, Read, Play
www.talkreadplay.org
Office of Engagement
www.bostonfamilies.org

Boston Public Schools Kindergarten REGISTRATION GUIDE



2016-2017



checklist

- STEP 1:** To get your list of schools, visit: www.discoverBPS.org
- STEP 2:** Pre-register using our new online SIS System <https://sis.mybps.org/aspen/index.html>
- STEP 3:** Bring the following documents:
 - Child's original birth certificate, I-94 form or passport
 - Child's up-to-date immunization record
 - Parent/Guardian's photo identification

And **two** of these pre-printed with the name and current address of the student's parent/guardian:

 - A utility bill (not water or cell phone) dated within the past 60 days
 - A current lease, Section 8 agreement, or BPS residency affidavit
 - A deed or a mortgage statement dated within the past 60 days, or a property tax bill dated within the last year
 - A W2 form dated within the year, or a payroll stub dated within the past 60 days
 - A letter from an approved government agency dated within the past 60 days
 - A bank or credit card statement dated within the past 60 days
- STEP 4:** Visit one of our Welcome Centers
- STEP 5:** Questions? Call: 617-635-6816. Visit: www.countdowntokindergarten.org

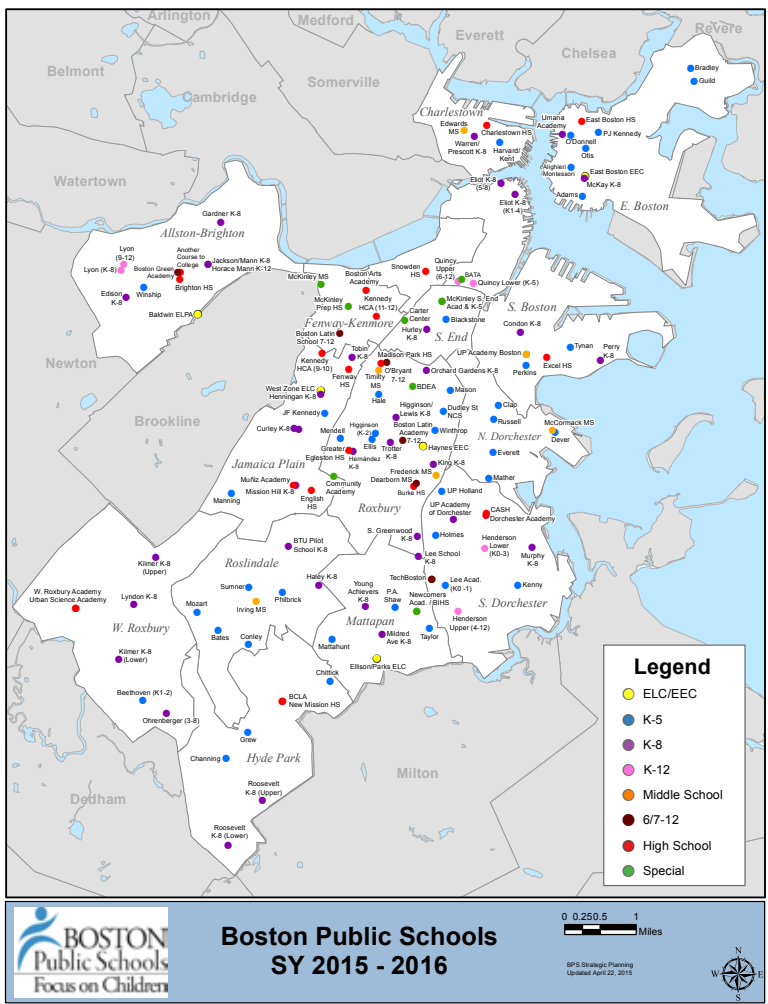


Registering for School

- Who?**
 By September 1, 2016, children who are
- 5 years old are eligible for K2 Kindergarten in BPS.
 - 4 years old are eligible for K1 Kindergarten in BPS.
 - 3 years old are eligible for K0 Kindergarten in BPS.

K1 and K0 seats are not guaranteed
 Note that while BPS tries to place children in schools their families choose, this is not always possible. K2 applicants can select to be administratively assigned in order to be guaranteed a seat by the end of first round registration. Children who turn six by December 31 will be assigned a kindergarten seat if one of the applicant's choices is not available.

Where?
 You can pre-register online using <https://sis.mybps.org>, but please remember that you need to complete the process by visiting a Welcome Center and bringing all required documents. If your child is entering K2 and English is not your child's first language, your registration process will include a separate visit to the Newcomer Assessment and Counseling Center (NACC) for an English language evaluation and school choice consultation.



Why BPS?

Boston families are fortunate to have more choices for their children's education than almost anywhere else in the U.S. - and you will find some of our city's best and most exciting choices in the Boston Public Schools. From pre-kindergarten through middle school and continuing through high school, our schools offer academic, social and cultural experiences that receive national attention.

Among your many choices are:

- An extensive kindergarten program, with guaranteed full-day "K2" for all five-year-olds, more than 2,700 seats for four-year-olds, and extended day schools just for early learners, including a Montessori program.
- A growing number of kindergartens to grade 8 (K-8) programs, innovation schools, pilot schools and in-district charter schools all over the city.
- Schools with programs for talented and gifted students, English language learners, and students with disabilities.
- Smaller class sizes, comparable to many suburban school districts: In kindergarten through grade 2, the maximum class size is just 22 students.

Thank you for choosing the Boston Public Schools for your family. We look forward to exceeding your expectations and being your partner in preparing your child for success from kindergarten through high school and beyond.

Choosing A School

The Boston Public Schools' assignment policy is based on a Home-Based plan for students in kindergarten through grade eight. It is designed to help students attend quality schools, closer to home.

The Home-Based plan:

- Increases the chances that a family will receive one of their top school choices.
- Increases access to quality schools overall.
- Ensures every incoming kindergarten child has quality schools from which to choose.
- Decreases the average distance a child travels to school by 40 percent.

Before registering in January, families will have the option to learn about our schools during School Choice Season.

- Visit DiscoverBPS.org and get your customized list of school choices based on your home address and your child's grade.
- Attend **Showcase in Our Schools** on December 5, 2015 from 9-1 PM. All BPS K-8 will be open to welcome families interested in visiting schools before making their School Choices.
- Visit additional schools during their School Preview Times starting Dec. 7, 2015-Jan. 22, 2016. Check url.

Complete registration process at any of the BPS Welcome Centers in the following locations.

<p>Dorchester Campbell Resource Center 1216 Dorchester Ave. Dorchester, MA</p>	<p>East Boston Mario Umana Academy 312 Border St., East Boston, MA Open Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. In January Wednesday schedule</p>
<p>Mattapan Mildred Ave K-8, Rear Entrance 5 Mildred Ave., Mattapan, MA Open Thursdays and Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m</p>	<p>Roxbury Bruce C. Bolling Building (Dudley Sq) 2300 Washington St., 2nd FL, Roxbury, MA</p>
<p>Roslindale Jennie Barron Bldg. 515 Hyde Park Ave., Roslindale, MA</p>	
<p>Newcomer Assessment and Counseling Center (NACC) Bruce C. Bolling Building (Dudley Square) 2300 Washington St., 2nd FL, Roxbury, MA (617) 635-1565 Hours of Operation: Weekdays 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Must visit Welcome Center first to schedule appointment for assessment</p>	

When?
 The first registration period runs from January 4 - 29, 2016, following an alphabetical schedule (shown below) **According to parent/guardian last name.** Register during this period for the best chance of being assigned to one of the schools you want.

A-I: Jan 4-8 | **J-Q:** Jan 11-15 | **R-Z:** Jan 19-22 | **All:** Jan 25-29

Pre-registration starts in mid-December and goes through January. Pre-register your children online, <https://sis.mybps.org>!

Preparing for School

Talking, reading and playing with children in the early years helps them to thrive and puts them on the path for school success. The City of Boston defines a "school ready child" as one who:

1. Interacts positively with other children and adults;
2. Is curious and loves learning new things;
3. Can focus & pay attention to another person or an activity;
4. Feels good about him/herself;
5. Can manage his or her emotions;
6. Is healthy, safe, well-rested and well-nourished;
7. Has appropriate knowledge;
8. Has appropriate language skills; and
9. Has appropriate physical skills.

By doing three things with children daily- talking, reading and playing- you can support your child to be ready for school. Visit talkreadplay.org for more tips and information.

