2014 Kindergarten Admissions

OFFICE OF STUDENT ENROLLMENT
NOVEMBER 2013
Agenda

- Last year’s kindergarten application process
- Streamlined admissions process pilot
- What changes—and what doesn’t—for families this year
- Timeline
- What you need to know
- Making decisions
- Resources
In the past...

Families were required to apply in person and submit paperwork at each school of interest. Some students received multiple offers, while others received no offers until June.
There is a new way to submit applications. Beginning in January, all families can apply for kindergarten in one of three ways:

- Online using Kindergarten Connect at [www.nyc.gov/schools/kindergarten](http://www.nyc.gov/schools/kindergarten)
- Over the phone by calling 718-935-2400 (8am – 6pm, Mon – Fri)
- In person at an Enrollment Office (8am – 3pm, Mon – Fri)

Interpretation services will be provided in approximately 150 languages for the phone and in person options.

The new application process does not change schools’ zones or admissions priorities.
Reflecting Back to Move Forward

Last year, we piloted a **streamlined admissions process** in our elementary school choice districts--1, 7, and 23:

- Families submitted one application, ranked choices and received one offer
- Families had the option to apply:
  - Online
  - Over the phone
  - In person at an Enrollment Office
- The process worked well; we saw
  - The majority of families applied online
  - A greater percentage of families participated in kindergarten admissions in all pilot districts, allowing schools and families to plan better for the fall
What We Learned: Pilot Outcomes

➢ **Application Methods**
   In all pilot districts, the online application was more widely used than the other options, but families were able to choose the most convenient option.

➢ **Increased Participation**
   In all pilot districts, participation in the application process increased compared to 2012, allowing schools and families to plan better for the fall.

### What We Learned: Pilot Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>2012 Total Applicants (9/7/12)</th>
<th>2013 Total Applicants (4/9/13)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>745</td>
<td>1062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>1195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>644</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Pie charts showing application methods by district](chart.png)
# 2014 Kindergarten Admissions

## Changes for Families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013 Kindergarten Admissions Process</th>
<th>2014 Kindergarten Admissions Process</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families apply at schools of interest and submit paperwork at each school</td>
<td>Families submit one application and rank all schools of interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some families receive multiple offers</td>
<td>Families receive a single offer to the highest ranked preference to which we can match them according to each school’s priority structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many families receive no offer and wait until June for an alternate offer</td>
<td>Families who cannot be offered a seat at their zoned school will be provided with an alternate offer in April; whenever possible, to a school the family ranked on the application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families can accept an offer and stay on waitlists until October</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifted &amp; Talented placement offers will be made after Kindergarten Admissions offers</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families participating in the Turning Five process apply and receive a placement alongside their general education peers.</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families have to investigate and apply to charter schools separately</td>
<td>Families will be able to review charter school options in the Elementary School Directory, and online application will link to the common application and other resources for applying to NYC charters</td>
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2014 Kindergarten Admissions: Reduce Workload and Provide Better Information for All Schools

- Reduction in Principal/Enrollment Designee workload
- Better data/information will be available earlier
- Admissions priorities remain consistent—zoned school priority is set in CR A-101 while choice schools maintain flexibility in admissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes for Schools</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Kindergarten Admissions Process</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each school follows a set of admissions priorities (zoned schools as defined in CR A-101 while choice schools’ priorities may vary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools host tours and open houses during the application period</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools collect applications during designated timeframe and perform data entry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools verify sibling and dual language status</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools generate offer letters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools pre-register students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some zoned schools will continue to have waitlists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools of choice (non-zoned) registers do not stabilize until October 31</td>
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</tbody>
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2014 Kindergarten Admissions Timeline

Present through December

Before the application period, families should:
• Learn about their zoned school
• Sign up for Gifted & Talented testing, if interested
• Go to school tours and open houses
• Review information about other options

January through February

During the application period:
• Go to school tours and open houses
• Apply online, over the phone, or in person at an Enrollment Office

April through June

After offers go out:
• Pre-register at the school, providing documentation
• If a school is able to offer your child a seat from the waitlist, they will contact you directly
Making Decisions: Recommendations for Families

- List your zoned school on the application. As in the past, most students will attend their zoned school for kindergarten.

- There is no disadvantage to ranking up to 20 programs, but don’t apply to programs unless you would enroll your child at that school.

- Rank programs in order of preference. Your child’s priority is determined by each school’s admissions priorities, not how you rank programs.

- Your child will remain on the waitlist for any programs you rank higher than the kindergarten offer you receive. Schools will contact you if an offer can be made.

- Pre-registration occurs after you receive your kindergarten offer. Accepting a placement does not impact your child’s chances of being offered a seat from another school’s waitlist, being offered Gifted & Talented placement, or being selected by a charter school lottery.
Resources

- **School Search** ([www.nyc.gov/schools/schoolsearch](www.nyc.gov/schools/schoolsearch))
  Type in your address to find out your zoned school, and see other nearby schools on the map.

- **311**
  You can also call 311 to find out your zoned school.

- **Kindergarten Admissions Website** ([www.nyc.gov/schools/kindergarten](www.nyc.gov/schools/kindergarten))
  Check our site for updates, and information on school tours and open houses.

- **Elementary School Directories**
  Directories will be posted online at the kindergarten website in November and available at schools and Enrollment Offices in December.

- **Kindergarten Email List**
  Sign up to get updates by email at [www.nyc.gov/schools/subscribe](www.nyc.gov/schools/subscribe)

Contact the Office of Student Enrollment with questions at 718-935-2009 or ES_Enrollment@schools.nyc.gov.
Common Questions

- Are school tours a requirement in order to apply to some schools?
  - No, school tours are not a requirement in order to apply to any given school.

- How can I apply to a dual-language program?
  - Families will be able to apply directly to a school’s Dual Language program using the corresponding program code. Families will list native language when applying and schools will be responsible for verifying this information as they have in the past.

- Does this process mean, in essence, that all schools are lottery schools within the framework of the priorities listed for that school?
  - No. Admissions priorities are not changing. Within priority groups students are ordered randomly. This is how our system has ordered children in the past.

- How will the waitlist work? Will families only be eligible for schools they placed ahead of the school at which they end up enrolled?
  - Students will be placed on the waitlist of any programs they ranked higher than the offer they received in April. Schools will manage their own waitlists as they have in the past. The waitlists will be in priority order first and then random order within each priority group.
How will the new Chancellor's Regulations, that indicate a parent whose child should be going to first grade can submit documentation so the child can be considered for kindergarten instead, impact this process. Do these families take part in Kindergarten Connect? If so, will all correct birthday years be placed before those submitting documentation?

- The new portion of the Chancellor’s regulation will have no impact on the new Kindergarten admissions process. Because we admit based on age, a youngster who is age-appropriate for 1st grade age will be admitted to first grade by the school. Once documentation is produced and a conversation with the Principal, family and Superintendent has occurred and it has been deemed that the youngster should be in Kindergarten, the school would find a seat.

If you are concerned that your zoned school will have a wait list, are you best to list second and third choices or will the DOE automatically assign you to a school?

- There is no strategy to ranking your preference. If your zoned school is your first choice, even if it historically has a waitlist, then the family should put that first. The next choices should be options that families would be happy to send their child to. Families should list as many schools as they are genuinely interested in.
Common Questions

• Some schools are asking parents to submit applications to the schools now. Will those carry any weight? Will families be directed to submit the Kindergarten Connect form at some point? How and when?
  • All schools will participate in the new application process. Beginning in January, families can submit an application on-line, over the phone or in person at a BEO. Families should not submit a separate application directly to schools. Schools should help families and redirect them to one of the three options.

• Will gender be considered in the process?
  • Gender should never be considered in the admission process. It is against State Law to base admissions decisions on gender.