I live in District 5 – What Are My Public School Kindergarten Options?

How do I find my catchment zone* and which is my zoned school?

- To find out your zone or catchment, call 311 and give them your address.
- Additionally, go to the New York City public school zone finder at [http://maps.nycboe.net/index.asp](http://maps.nycboe.net/index.asp).
- Columbia University’s District 5* faculty and student housing is located within the catchments of:
  - PS 125 ([http://www.ralphbuncheschool.org/](http://www.ralphbuncheschool.org/)) and
  - PS 36 ([http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/05/M036/default.htm](http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/05/M036/default.htm)).

*Catchment Zone: The specific area within your district with your assigned local elementary school. Generally, by living within the catchment zone, you have the right to enroll your child in the general education program of the assigned school. Admission into that catchment school is likely, but not guaranteed due to space constraints (most notably in Kindergarten), and in those cases your child is assigned to another school.

*District: One of 32 groupings of New York City public schools. Manhattan contains Districts 1-6. Columbia University’s Morningside campus is contained in Districts 3 and 5; Columbia University’s Medical Center campus is located in District 6.

What are my choices for schools of interest other than my catchment school?

School-based admission through direct application/lottery*:

- Teachers Community College ([http://www.tc.edu/communityschool/](http://www.tc.edu/communityschool/))
- Central Park East I ([http://www.centralparkeastone.org/](http://www.centralparkeastone.org/)) and Central Park East II ([http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/04/M964/default.htm](http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/04/M964/default.htm)) are open to all New York City families through a school-based admission process, which might include a lottery system. Preference is given to students who live in the district of the school (District 4).
- Charter schools* are open to all New York City families through a school-based lottery, with preference given to students who live in the district of the school (most charter schools are located in District 5).
- To learn more about options in charter schools, visit [http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/charters/default.htm](http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/charters/default.htm)

*Lottery: Method ensuring random selection of students for school admission. Some schools, including all charter schools, are required to pick students by lottery; some other schools choose to use it.

*Charter School: Autonomous public schools that operate independently of the local district office and are governed by a not-for-profit board of trustees. Students must meet academic performance goals and state standards as measured by standardized tests.
City-Wide/Borough-Wide Gifted and Talented Schools*

- There are several entire schools in Manhattan dedicated to the education of gifted children in New York City, accessible through testing or other assessment method.
- These include:
  - the Anderson School (http://www.ps334anderson.org/home),
  - the Talented and Gifted School/TAG (http://tagscholars.com/),
  - New Explorations into Science, Technology + Math/NEST+M (http://www.nestmk12.net/),
  - Hunter College Elementary School [separate school-based test] (http://hcsl.hunter.cuny.edu/), and

*Gifted and Talented (G&T): Program of accelerated instruction for students who qualify through an identifying test. NYC Department of Education G&T programs and schools offer a free test for consideration of placement; Hunter College Elementary requires a separate, fee-based assessment. To find out more about the tests and application procedures, please visit http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/GiftedandTalented/default.htm

What about dual language programs*?

- Dual language programs are available in some District 5 schools by application.
- Catchment rules still apply, thus you can only request this program once your child has been accepted into the school.
  - PS 125 (http://www.ralphbuncheschool.org/), located within the zone of Columbia’s District 5 faculty and student housing, offers both Spanish/English and French/English dual language programs.

*Dual Language: Immersion programs have classes in which half the students speak English as their home language and half speak another common home language, with the goal of fluency by the end of elementary school.

Resources:

New York City Department of Education: http://schools.nyc.gov/default.htm

Inside Schools: http://insideschools.org/index12.php