



CHARLES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EARLY ENTRANCE INTO KINDERGARTEN

Charles County Public Schools has procedures and guidelines for early entrance into Kindergarten. Children who will turn **five years old between September 2 and October 15, 2021** are eligible to apply.

Applications for Early Entrance into Kindergarten for current county residents must be submitted between **March 29 and June 15, 2021**. Families who move into Charles County from outside of the county after June 15, 2021 may submit an early entrance application between June 15 and July 31, 2021. Documentation of move in date must be provided.

Applicants will be assessed and must demonstrate superior performance in order to qualify for early entrance into Kindergarten.

Application Process:

1. Complete the Early Entrance into Kindergarten Application using the link
The link will be posted on Monday, March 29, 2021
2. On the application, you will need to select the school your child is zoned to attend based on your home address. If you do not know which school you are zoned for please click the link below.
<https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/school-locator>
3. After submitting the application you will be contacted via email to submit the required documents.
Required Documents:
 - Two proofs of domicile
 - Child's birth certificate
4. Once your completed application and required documents have been received, you will be contacted to set up a time for your child's Early Entrance Assessment.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Is early entrance to Kindergarten the best choice for your child? Please consider....

- Children who are admitted to Kindergarten through early entrance will be the youngest in the class, by as much as a year.
- School readiness involves social/emotional maturity as well as academic skill.
- Although a capable young child needs to be challenged, these challenges need to be closely aligned with his/her social and emotional development. If adult expectations for a child's performance exceed his/her developmental capabilities, stress and anxiety may occur.
- Entering school early is a decision that will have a long-term effect on a child. The social, emotional, and academic impacts of early placement are not predictable.

What does the Kindergarten program look like?

- Charles County's Kindergarten program is an academically rigorous full-day program. Students receive daily instruction in literacy and mathematics, as well as science and social studies. Activities to promote physical, social, and emotional development are also emphasized. Instruction is differentiated to meet the needs of a diverse student population. The majority of Kindergarten students will learn to read before starting first grade.

Why must my child be tested, and what does the testing involve?

- The purpose of the assessment is to identify children who demonstrate superior performance, in order to help ensure a successful school experience for a child who may be significantly younger than his/her classmates.
- The test will be administered by a qualified member of the Office of the Deputy Superintendent. Administration takes **approximately one hour** and the child must separate from the parent(s) in order to take the test.
- The test covers a broad range of school readiness skills, including language/pre-reading and mathematics. A child must demonstrate superior performance in **both** pre-reading and mathematics in order to qualify for early entrance into Kindergarten.
- Each child will only be tested one time; therefore, it is important that you make sure that your child has had adequate food and rest, and is feeling well on the day of testing.
- You will be notified of your child's results of the Early Entrance Assessment by mail typically within two weeks of the assessment date.

What are my options if my child does not qualify for early entrance?

- If you are notified that your child did not qualify for early entrance, you have ten days from the date of notification in which to file an appeal of the results. Appeals must be

submitted in writing via US Mail. Appeals submitted via email will be not accepted.
Mail letters of appeal to:

Office of the Deputy Superintendent
Charles County Public Schools
PO Box 2770
La Plata, MD 20646

- Children who do not qualify for early entrance to Kindergarten are not automatically placed in Prekindergarten. In order to be considered for PreK, a separate application and documentation must be submitted.

My child was accepted for early entrance into Kindergarten. Now what?

- Directions for how to complete the online registration will be shared in your acceptance letter.
- Children who are accepted for early entrance into Kindergarten are provisionally placed. They will be observed by the teacher, principal, and other school staff for a period of 30 calendar days from the start of school. If there are concerns about the child's academic, social, or emotional adjustment to school, a decision to discontinue the Kindergarten placement may be made. If a child is deemed to be making a satisfactory adjustment after 30 calendar days, then his/her placement in Kindergarten is considered permanent. Parents will only be notified if their child's Kindergarten placement will not be continued at this point.

If you have further questions about early entrance into Kindergarten, please contact the Early Childhood Office at 301-934-7332.