

## PREKINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT CATEGORIES

**Category 1 (Financial Need. Guaranteed admission):** One or more of the following must apply:

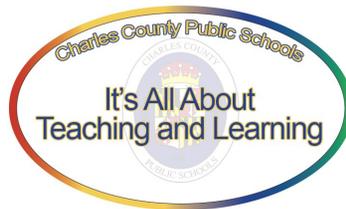
- Family is eligible for free or reduced-price meals
- Enrollment in the Food Supplement (food stamps) program through the Department of Social Services
- Homeless or foster care status, verified by the CCPS Office of Student Services

**Category 2 (Next priority, admission not guaranteed):** One or more of the following must apply:

- Family income is within 10% of the limit for reduced meals
- Child has an IEP (Individual Education Plan) from Child Find for disability
- Child lives with an elderly guardian and parent is not in the household
- Parent has a diagnosed illness that interferes with the ability to care for the child
- Child's first language is not English
- Child participated in Head Start last year
- Parent is or will be deployed for 12 months or more.

**Category 3 (Admission NOT Guaranteed):**

Children who do not meet the criteria for Categories 1 or 2



Charles County Public Schools  
Office of Early Childhood  
(301) 934-7380  
mlong@ccboe.com

### Mission Statement

The mission of Charles County Public Schools is to provide an opportunity for all school-aged children to receive an academically challenging, quality education that builds character, equips for leadership and prepares for life, in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning.

The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Dr. Patricia Vaira, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (students) or Nikial Majors, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 coordinator (employees/ adults), at:

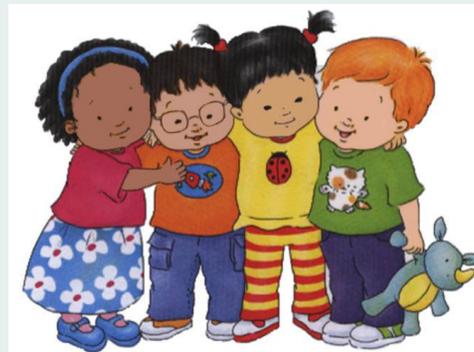
Charles County Public Schools  
Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building  
P.O. Box 2770  
La Plata, Maryland 20646

or by phone:

(301) 932-6610  
(301) 870-3814

## Charles County Public Schools

### Pre-Kindergarten Program: Information for Families



Charles County Public Schools  
Office of the Deputy Superintendent



## The PreKindergarten Program

The Charles County Public School system offers PreKindergarten programs at all 21 elementary schools. Full-day PreK programs are offered in the 7 Title I schools (Barnhart, Dr. Brown, Dr. Mudd, Eva Turner, Indian Head, J.P. Ryon, and Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy). Morning and afternoon half-day PreK programs are offered at all other schools. PreK programs in some schools are designated inclusion programs for preschool-aged special-needs children, as well as typically-developing children. The goal of the PreK program is to prepare children socially, emotionally, physically, and academically for Kindergarten and beyond.

### THE PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM: FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS

#### 1. Who can apply for PreK?

To be considered for PreK, a child must turn 4 years old on or before September 1st of the current school year and must be a Charles County resident.

#### 2. Are all county children entitled to attend PreK?

No. The PreK program is neither mandatory nor guaranteed. In accordance with state policy, first priority is given to students whose families are economically disadvantaged or homeless (Category 1). All Category 1 students are admitted. Second priority goes to students who meet certain other criteria (Category 2). Category 2 students may be placed if spaces exist after all Category 1 students are placed. Students who do not meet the criteria for Categories 1 or 2 are considered Category 3, and are only placed if spaces exist after all Category 1 and 2 students have been placed. Category 3 students are placed after the start of the school year. For a full description of the three application categories, see the back of this brochure.

#### 3. Is transportation provided for PreK students?

Yes, in most cases. Full-day PreK students ride the bus to and from school with other students from their school. Half-day PreK students ride the bus with other students from their school, either to or from school, and ride a PreK bus at midday. If you are Category 1, and the PreK class at your home school is full at the time your child is accepted, you will be offered a placement at a different school with **no transportation provided.**

### THE PREKINDERGARTEN APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Obtain a PreK application at your home school, or download the application from:

<http://www.ccboe.com/ss/how-to-register/>

**Before downloading the application, read “Which PreK Application Do I Need?” for a complete explanation of the 3 categories.**

2. Complete the application and gather all required documentation. A list of documents that are required for submitting your application is available at the link above. The application must be complete before it will be processed.  
If you have any questions about documentation, please call the Early Childhood Office at 301-934-7380.
3. Submit the application and documentation at your home school.
4. The application will be forwarded to the Early Childhood Office for consideration. Category 1 families who apply by June 22 will be notified of their child’s status within 2 weeks of submitting the application. Category 2 and 3 families will be notified at a later time, possibly not until after the start of the school year. Applications received after June 22 will experience a delay in processing of a month or more.