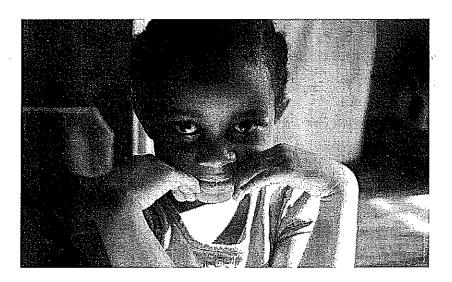


WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN! Information For Families of Children with Disabilities November & December 2017





Introductions

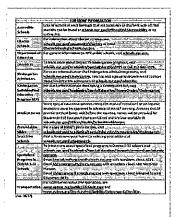


Before we begin . . .

You should have an **Agenda** sheet, with the list of topics for today's presentation.



On the back of the agenda is an **Information Sheet** with a list of helpful websites and contact information.





Before we begin . . .

You should also have the **Kindergarten Guide**.

It provides information for families of children with disabilities who will enter kindergarten next fall.



Kindergarten: An Orientation Guide

for

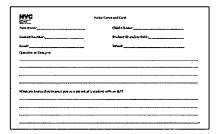
Families of Students with Disabilities Entering Kindergarten in Fall, 2018



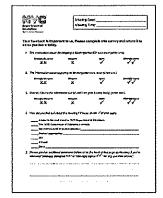


Before we begin . . .

You should also have a **Comment Card** and **Survey Form**.



Use this card to write down your questions. We will collect the cards and answer your questions during the Q & A at the end of this presentation.



Please also fill out survey at end of presentation, to help us improve future presentations.



5

Today's Agenda

- Welcome and Introductory Remarks
- Special Education in New York City Public Schools
- Preparing for Kindergarten: The Two Processes
 - Developing a Kindergarten IEP
 - > Applying to Kindergarten
- Q&A
- Closing Remarks
- Survey



(a)

Special Education in New York City's Public Schools

- Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
 should have the same access to schools as they would if they
 did not have IEPs. For the vast majority of students with IEPs,
 this means learning at their zoned schools or schools of
 interest while receiving the supports they need to succeed.
- Students with IEPs are taught in the least restrictive environment that is appropriate, alongside students without disabilities to the maximum extent possible.
- Students with IEPs should have access to a rigorous academic curriculum and are held to high academic standards, enabling them to realize their potential.



Preparing for Kindergarten: Two Processes

Applying to Schools

All families of children born in 2013

and

Developing a
Kindergarten
Individualized
Education Program
(IEP)

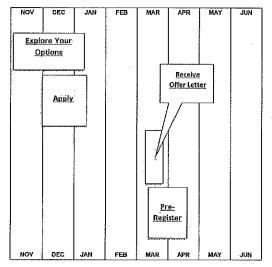
Families of children with disabilities born in 2013

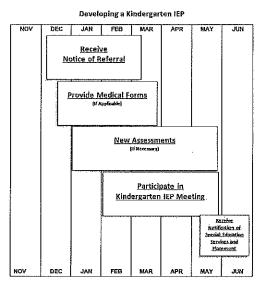


Preparing for Kindergarten: Two Processes

The timelines for these processes are on pages 2 & 3 in the Kindergarten Guide.

Applying to Kindergarten



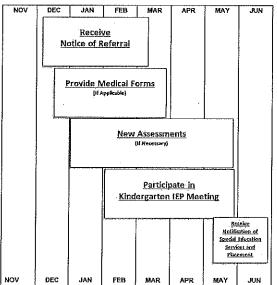


Department of Education

œ.

We will start by taking a closer look at the process of developing a kindergarten IEP

Developing a Kindergarten IEP

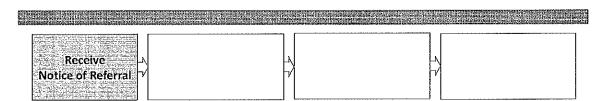




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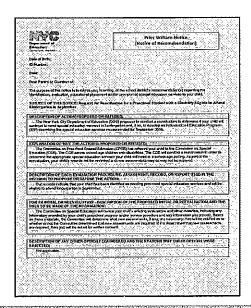
Developing a Kindergarten Individualized Education Program (IEP)



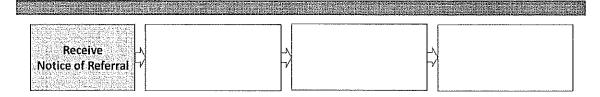


You will receive a blue "Notice of Referral" ("Notice of Recommendation") in the mail this winter.





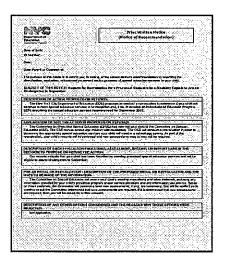




The Notice of Referral (blue notice) marks the start of the kindergarten IEP process.

Translations of the notice will be available on our website below.

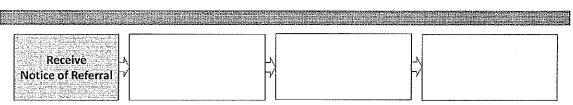
العصول على نسخة بقائمة العربية من هذه الوثيقة. ترجو زيارة قدوقع الإنكار ولي أداه.	Pour obtenir la traduction de ce document, merci de visiter le site internet cité ca-dessous.	Перевод данного документа на русский язых находится на вебсайте, указанном инже.
এই ন্ধির বাংলা অনুবাদের জন্য অনুগ্রহ করে নিচের এয়েবসাইট দেখুন।	Pou ka jwenn yon kupi dokimen sa e an Kreydi ayisyen, tanpri ale sou sit entènèt ki pi ba a.	Para obtener una versión en españo; de este documento, por favor visite el sitio de internet a continuación.
知要取得本文件的中文版本。 讀漢號下前的別站。	한 운서의 한국어만을 보시려면 다음 활사이트를 방문해 꾸살시오.	اس دستارمز کے آوڈر ٹرجد کے لیے برائے مہربائی ڈیل کی ریب سائٹ سے رجرع کریرہ



Website:

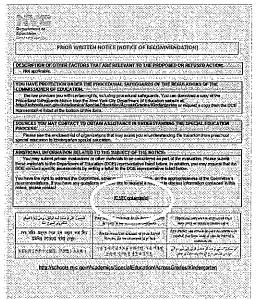
schools.nyc.gov/Academics/SpecialEducation/AcrossGrades/Kindergarten



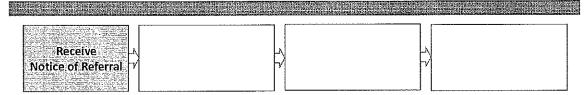


The contact information for the DOE representative who will assist you with the kindergarten IEP process is listed in the Notice of Referral (blue notice).

Your contact will be based at a district Committee on Special Education (CSE) office or at a public school.







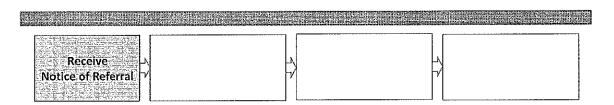
The process of developing your child's IEP for kindergarten is different and separate from the preschool IEP process.

If your child is receiving preschool services, you will have a **preschool annual review IEP meeting** this school year to discuss your child's preschool services (if you have not had it already),

and

you will *also* have a *kindergarten IEP meeting* to determine eligibility for special education services in *kindergarten* and to plan for any services your child will need. If your child is eligible for a kindergarten IEP, services will begin in September, 2018.

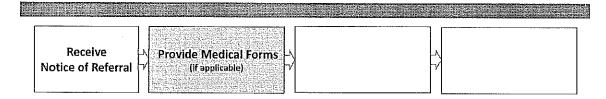




If your child is receiving preschool services, your child will continue to receive preschool services as mandated by the preschool IEP.

- 10-month preschool services go through end of June, 2018.
- 12-month preschool services provide 6 additional weeks, through mid-August, 2018.



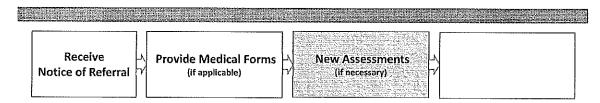


If your child has any medical needs, you will need to provide your DOE representative with medical forms before the IEP meeting.

Medical forms and translations are available on this website: Schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Health/SchoolHealthForms

We will talk about the medical forms later in the presentation.



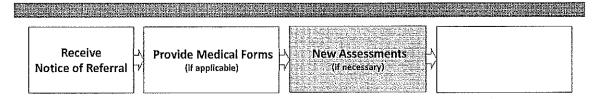


All preschool students with IEPs who will enter kindergarten next fall will go through the *reevaluation* process. New assessments may be part of this process.

What is the purpose of the reevaluation?

To determine whether your child will continue to need special education services in kindergarten and, if so, to determine the appropriate special education services for your child in a school-age setting.





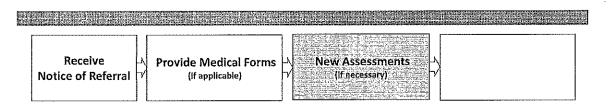
Your child's reevaluation will be specific to your child's needs.

IEP teams start by reviewing:

- · your child's preschool IEP
- preschool assessments
- · any assessments you previously provided

After reviewing current information about your child, the IEP team may decide that they need more information and may plan new assessments.





New assessments may be formal or informal.

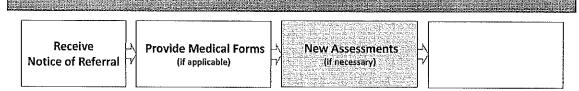
Examples of formal assessments:

- psychoeducational assessment (including standardized tests)
- full occupational therapy assessment

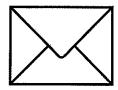
Examples of *informal* assessments:

- classroom observation
- teacher interview





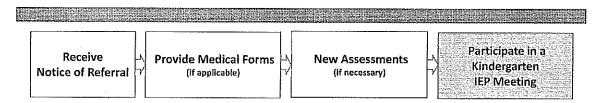
If new assessments are planned, the IEP team will send you a letter requesting your consent. To consent, please sign and return the letter to your Department of Education representative.



If no new assessments are planned, the IEP team will also inform you by mail.

In **both** situations, you have the right to request additional assessments. To ask for additional assessments, write a letter to your DOE Representative, stating the type of assessment(s) requested.





When assessments (if any) are complete, the IEP team will schedule an IEP meeting.



The IEP team will send you a letter informing you of the date, time and place of the meeting, and listing the participants who have been invited.

You may invite participants as well.



Receive Notice of Referral Provide Medical Forms (if applicable)

New Assessments (if necessary) Participate in a Kindergarten IEP Meeting

Your child's IEP meeting will take place at a district CSE office or at a public school.

You should know that having an IEP meeting at a particular school does not guarantee that your child will be admitted there. If you are interested in your child attending the school where the IEP meeting takes place, you should be sure to list the school on your kindergarten application.

We will discuss the kindergarten application later in the presentation.



Receive Notice of Referral Provide Medical Forms
(if applicable)

New Assessments (If necessary)

Participate in a Kindergarten IEP Meeting

Who will be invited to the IEP meeting?

- You (of course!)
- School Psychologist
- Special education teacher/related service provider*
 (your child's teacher/service provider if your child is receiving services)
- General education teacher

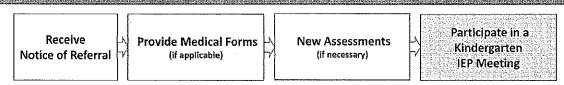
(your child's general education teacher if your child is in a pre-K class)

- · Others, invited by you
- District representative
- · Language interpreter, if needed

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*related services include speech-language therapy, occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), and counseling.





Every preschool student with an IEP is classified as a "preschool student with a disability."

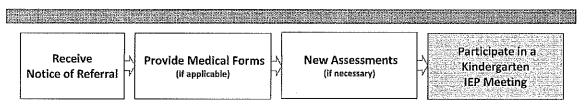
At the Kindergarten IEP meeting, the IEP team - of which you are a member - will first decide whether your child is *eligible* for *school-age* special education services.

To be eligible, your child must be found to have a disability and require special education services and programs.

If the IEP team finds that your child is not eligible to receive special education services in kindergarten, your child will be "declassified." Your child will enter a general education class and will not receive special education services.



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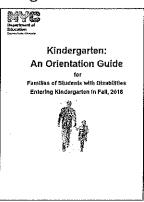


If your child is eligible for school-age special education services, he or she will receive a specific disability classification.

The classifications are listed below and in the Kindergarten Guide:

- autism
- deaf-blindness
- deafness
- · emotional disturbance
- · hearing impairment
- · intellectual disability
- · learning disability
- multiple disabilities

- orthopedic impairment
- · other health impairment
- speech and language impairment
- · traumatic brain injury
- visual impairment, including blindness





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Receive Notice of Referral

Provide Medical Forms
(if applicable)

New Assessments (if necessary)

Participate in a Kindergarten IEP Meeting

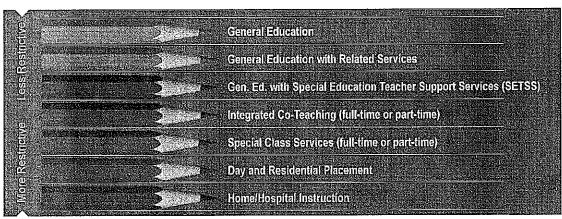
Then, the IEP team will develop annual goals for your child and determine what supports and services your child will need in order to meet these goals.

Goals, supports and services will be designed to support academic learning.

The annual goals and special education supports and services will be described in your child's IEP.



Now we will talk about some of the special education supports and services provided to school-age children. Your child will be educated with the combination of services best suited to meet their needs.





General Education with Related Services

Related services are provided to help students with disabilities achieve their educational goals. Related service providers often come into classrooms and collaborate with teachers, aides and other adults to support students. At times, they work with students individually or in small groups in other locations. Related services include:

- counseling
- hearing education services
- occupational therapy (OT)
- orientation and mobility services
- physical therapy (PT)
- school nurse services
- speech/language therapy
- vision education services

For many students, related services are the only special education services recommended. For others, related services are recommended in combination with other services and programs.



Services in District 1-32 (Zoned, Non-Zoned, and Choice District Schools)

In most cases, school-age students receive the program(s) and service(s) on their IEPs at District 1-32 (neighborhood) schools. Students in neighborhood schools may receive these services:

- Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETSS)
- Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT)
- Special Class (SC) Services

We will describe them now.



Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETSS)

- Part-time services provided by a special education teacher.
- The special education teacher may work with one student or a small group of students, within a general education classroom or in a separate location.



Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT)

- In ICT classrooms, students with and without disabilities learn together with two teachers; a general education teacher and a special education teacher plan and teach together.
- There are 25 total students in a kindergarten ICT class, with no more than 10 students with IEPs.
- ICT can be provided part-time, for any part of the school day, or full-time, depending on your child's needs.



Special Class Services (SC)

- · Instruction for children with disabilities only.
- Students are taught by special education teachers who provide specialized instruction tailored to the needs of the students in the class.
- Special classes in District 1-32 schools have 12 students whose ages are within a three-year range and who have similar educational needs.
- Special class services can be provided part-time, for any part of the school day, or full-time.



76 Q

Specialized Programs

Specialized Programs are programs that do not exist in every District 1-32 school. Specialized Programs that are provided in some District 1-32 schools are:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Nest Program and ASD Horizon Program
- · Academics, Career, and Essential Skills (ACES) Program
- Bilingual Special Education (BSE)

We will describe them now.



Specialized Programs - ASD Nest and ASD Horizon

ASD Nest Program

- Reduced class-size Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) class (a class with two teachers) that includes students with autism and students without disabilities.
- Focus is primarily on developing communication and social skills in students with autism who meet or exceed grade level academic standards and developmental level cognition (intelligence).

ASD Horizon Program

- Smaller Special Class (SC) with one teacher, one paraprofessional and up to eight (8) students.
- Focus is primarily on supporting communication, social skills, and progress toward meeting grade level standards for students with autism who fall below grade- and age-level standards in academics and development. Students may also need some individualized support at times during the school day.



Website: http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/SpecialEducation/SupportsServices/specializedprograms
Email: ASDPrograms@schools.nyc.gov

Specialized Programs - Academics, Career, and Essential Skills (ACES) Program

- ACES Programs provide a Small Class (15:1 or 12:1+1) for some students who have an intellectual disability (ID) or multiple disability (MD).
- They provide academic instruction as well as a highly specialized educational program that facilitates the acquisition, application and transfer of skills across environments such as home, school, and community.



Website: http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/SpecialEducation/SupportsServices/specializedprograms
Email: SpecializedPrograms@schools.nyc.gov

Specialized Programs - Bilingual Special Education

- Bilingual Special Education Programs provide an Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) or Special Class (SC), using a Dual Language (DL) or Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) model for students whose IEPs recommend special education instruction in their home language.
- If your child is recommended for a BSE Program, you may receive a different school placement in late spring. It is important that you register your child at the school with the BSE Program so that your child can receive the special education supports and services s/he is recommended for.
- At minimum, if your child is identified as an English Language Learner, s/he
 will receive English as a New Language (ENL) to support learning English.



Website: http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/SpecialEducation/SupportsServices/specializedprograms
Email: BSEPrograms@schools.nyc.gov

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Accessible Schools

Some school buildings are accessible to students who have accessibility needs. These schools are designated "accessible."

Schools provide different levels of accessibility. If your child will need an accessible school, you should be sure to visit schools and apply to those that would be appropriate for your child.

For a list of accessible schools, call 311 or visit schools.nyc.gov/Offices/OSP/Accessibility.



District 75 Citywide Programs

- District 75 provides highly specialized instructional support for students with significant challenges, including students who are on the autism spectrum or have significant cognitive delays, emotional disturbances, sensory impairments, and/or multiple disabilities.
- A District 75 program will be considered if your child's educational, social, and/or emotional needs cannot be met in a District 1-32 school program.
- More information about District 75 programs is in the Kindergarten Guide and online: schools.nyc.gov/Academics/SpecialEducation/D75





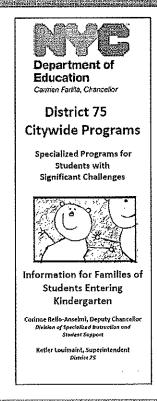
District 75 Citywide Programs

If your child receives an IEP recommending District 75, or if you think a District 75 recommendation is a possibility, please visit:

Schools.nyc.gov/Academics/SpecialEducation/D75

District 75 brochures are available here today and are also on our website:

Schools.nyc.gov/KindergartenSpecialEducation





Other Placement Recommendations

State-Supported Schools

- Provide intensive special education services to children who are deaf, blind, or who have severe disabilities.
- If a state-supported school may be appropriate for your child, we will assist you with the referral process.

State-Approved Non-Public Schools

- Provide programs for children whose intensive educational needs cannot be met in a public school program.
- If the IEP team determines that it may not be possible to meet your child's needs in a public school program, the IEP team may recommend that a state-approved non-public school be considered.



'Parentally Placed' Students - IESPs

- Some families prefer to send their children to private or parochial schools. If your child will attend a private or religious school in New York City, he/she may be eligible to receive special education services and/or related services provided by the DOE.
- If you have decided to send your child to a private or religious school (not at the DOE's expense), you should inform your DOE representative that you are not seeking special education in a public school.
- If your child is eligible for special education and you make this request, the IEP team will develop an Individualized Education Services Program (IESP) instead of an IEP.
- The IESP will describe the special education services and/or related services to be provided while your child attends the private or religious school.
- If your plans change at any time after an IESP is developed and you would like to ask for an IEP
 and a public school placement, contact your DOE representative or the CSE serving your district
 of residence and ask for a new IEP meeting.
- If you plan to send your child to a private or parochial school outside of NYC, you may request
 equitable special education services from the school district in which the school is located.



Revoking Consent for Special Education Services

At any time, you may choose to end all special education services for your child by writing a letter to your DOE representative.

- Your child will enter a general education class and will not receive any special education supports or services.
- Your child's special education records will remain in your child's file.
- If you are considering this option for a child entering kindergarten, the IEP team will assist you with this process.
- At any time after you revoke consent, you have the right to request an evaluation for special education services.



03

Transportation

- Right now, if your child is enrolled in a preschool special education program, he or she is eligible for special education bus service with an attendant on the bus.
- In kindergarten, most students with disabilities travel to school in the same ways as students without disabilities. Many walk!
- Based on his or her age and the walking distance from home to school, if your child attends a school in your district, he or she may be eligible for general education bus service (service to and from a bus stop where a group of children wait).
- If you child attends a public elementary school in another district, general education bus service will not be provided.



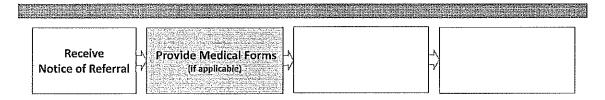
Specialized Transportation (or "Special Education Bus Service")

The IEP team will recommend special education bus service if your child's disability prevents your child from using the same transportation as children without disabilities. The recommendation will be made at the IEP meeting.

The need may be related to a medical condition or orthopedic, emotional, behavioral, or cognitive disability.





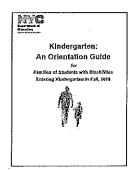


Eligibility for Specialized Transportation Accommodations

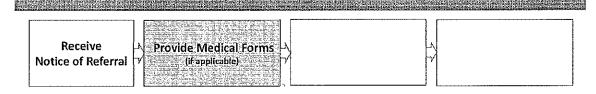
If your child needs special accommodations on the bus, such as a nurse or medical equipment, the accommodations will need to be approved in advance.

If the child has a medical condition or limited mobility, and you would like the IEP team to consider recommending specialized transportation for that reason, please provide these two forms well in advance of the IEP meeting:

- Authorization for Release of Medical Information
- Request for Medical Accommodations to be completed by Treating Physician







Eligibility for Services Related to Medical Needs

If you think your child needs health services, provide completed medical forms to your DOE representative before the IEP meeting.

Medical forms are available from your DOE representative and online: http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Health/SchoolHealthForms



Receive Notification of Special Education Services and Placement

In late spring, you will be notified by mail about the special education services and the school placement that have been recommended in your child's IEP.



These are two separate letters.

The first letter is white and will list all of the program recommendations that have been made for your child by the IEP team ("Prior Written Notice").

The second letter is green. This School Location Letter will list the school that will be offering your child the services that have been recommended. This letter also includes the program recommendation(s) for your child.



Prior Written Notice and School Location Letter

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Receive Notification of Special Education Services and Placement

If your child's IEP recommends a **District 1-32 school placement**, your child's special education services will most likely be provided at the school where your child was accepted through the kindergarten admissions process.

- Please note: If your child is accepted to an ASD Nest Program, an ASD
 Horizon Program, or an ACES Program or is recommended for a Bilingual
 Special Education Program, you may receive a different school
 placement in late spring than the school offered through the
 kindergarten admissions process.
- If you do receive a different school placement in late spring, please register your child at the school mentioned in the School Location Letter; not the school listed in your offer through kindergarten admissions.



Preparing for Kindergarten: Two Processes

☑Developing a
Kindergarten
Individualized Education
Program (IEP)

Families of children with disabilities born in 2013

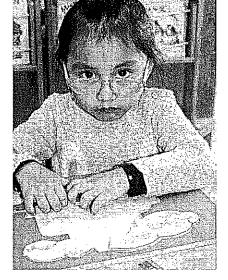
and

Applying to Schools

All families
of children born in 2013



We will talk about the kindergarten admissions process now.





2018 Admissions Kindergarten and Gifted & Talented

This year, all NYC students born in 2013, including students with disabilities:

- should apply to kindergarten
- can request Gifted & Talented testing



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Understand Your Choices

There are nearly 800 elementary schools throughout NYC.

Zoned District School

- A school that has specific home addresses assigned to it.
- Most often, these addresses are in the area around the school.

Non-Zoned District School

 A school that does not have home addresses assigned to it.

Gifted & Talented

- There are Citywide and District G&T programs.
- Eligibility to apply is based on your child's G&T exam score.



Narrow Down Your Choices

Find out what district you live in—there are 32 school districts in NYC

Find out what your zoned school is

- Most schools have an area called their zone.
- All addresses in this zone are assigned to the school.
- If you live in this zone, the school is your "zoned school."

Your zoned school is the school where your child is most likely to attend Kindergarten.



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Kindergarten Admissions: Basics



Explore your options. Use **School Search** (schools.nyc.gov/SchoolSearch) to find your zoned school.



Submit your application online, by phone, or in person. List up to 12 programs on your application.



Get your offer letter. All families that apply by the deadline get one offer. Pre-register at a school to accept your offer.

Summer

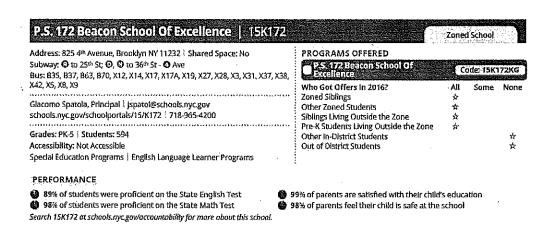
Receive waitlist offer from schools, if applicable.

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Kindergarten Directory

School pages have a lot of helpful information as you make decisions.



TIP: Look at a school's page to find out which groups of students a school made offers to last year. It's likely they'll accept the same groups this year.



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Gifted & Talented Admissions



Submit a Request for Testing (RFT) form. All NYC residents in pre-K, Kindergarten, first grade, and second grade can test for Gifted & Talented, including students with IEPs and English Language Learners (ELLs).



Take the Gifted & Talented test in January.



Receive your score. If your child scores 90 or above on the Gifted & Talented test, you can apply to a Gifted & Talented program.



Apply for placement. If your child is eligible, your child's Gifted & Talented test score report will list all the programs you can put on your child's application.



16

But My Child has an IEP...

- That's ok! Families of students with disabilities should submit an application just like their general education peers.
- The process doesn't take IEP status into account when we make offers. That
 means your child has an equal chance to get into your zoned school as a child
 without an IEP.
- All schools serve students with disabilities, and are expected to provide the special education programs and services listed on students' IEPs.
- If your child receives a school-age IEP, you will receive an additional letter later on in the spring. In almost all cases, it will say the same school as your admissions offer.
 - Exceptions: Bilingual Special Education, ASD Nest or Horizon, ACES, accessibility need, District 75, or non-public schools.



30

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I choose not to apply to kindergarten?

- Every 5 year old will have a place to go to school in September.
- If you don't apply, and your child receives a school-age IEP, then he/she will be assigned a placement in your district of residence.

Do I have to apply if I believe my child will be in a specialized school next year?

• There's no downside to applying – you just reject the offer. But if you don't want to, you don't have to.

<u>TIP:</u> Apply and take the opportunity to express a preference! Even it you just apply to your coned school, you're at least giving your child an equal shot at a seat there

Will my child get busing?

· Is it on your child's IEP? Then yes.

If not...

• Is the school less than half a mile away? Is the school in a different district? Then no. Otherwise, yes! See optnyc.org for more details.



Contact Information

ESenrollment@schools.nyc.gov 718-935-2009 (P311)

Family Welcome Centers: schools.nyc.gov/WelcomeCenters

Resources

Find your zoned school and district: schools.nyc.gov/SchoolSearch Learn more about Kindergarten: schools.nyc.gov/Kindergarten Subscribe to receive updates: schools.nyc.gov/Subscribe



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More Information





All children eligible for NYC kindergarten, including those with IEPs, are eligible for admission to NYC charter schools

- Families should complete an application for each charter school of interest.
- If the number of applicants exceeds the number of available seats, schools will select students through a random process, such as a lottery. Most (deadlines for) lotteries are held in April.
- Charter schools give preference to siblings of students already enrolled in the charter school and students living in the charter school's district.
- If a student is accepted to a charter school, the charter school will work to ensure that the student receives the program and services on his/her IEP.
- For more information, visit: schools.nyc.gov/community/charters



13

Reminder – Communication to Families

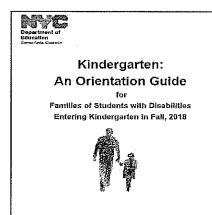
Welcome Packet	Notice of Referral	Notice of Case Reassignment	PWN (Notice of Recommendation)	School Location Letter
Timing: October 2017	Timing: December 2017 - onward	Timing: January 2018 - onward (/f case is reassigned)	Timing: After IEP has been finalized (typically starts at the end of February/early March)	Timing: April – August 2018
Purpose: Introduces the kindergarten admissions process to families and provides information regarding kindergarten orientation sessions.	Purpose: Informs the family that their case was assigned to an IEP team.	Purpose: Informs the family that case was reassigned to new IEP team. (In some cases only)	Purpose: Summarizes the results of the IEP Meeting.	Purpose: School Placement Information; includes student program recommendation.



If Your Address Has Changed

If you did not receive a mailing about these meetings, or if your address has changed, please contact your Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) administrator at the Committee on Special Education (CSE) office to make sure we have your correct address.

The CSE offices are listed in this guide.





Our Website is schools.nyc.gov

For more information about:

- Developing a kindergarten IEP, visit
 schools.nyc.gov/KindergartenSpecialEducation
- The kindergarten admissions process, visit schools.nyc.gov/kindergarten

You can also email Turning5@schools.nyc.gov if you would like a copy of this presentation.





Online Resources for Families

Special Education Homepage

http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/SpecialEducation

D75

http://schools.nyc.gov/academics/specialEducation/D75

Specialized Programs

http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/SpecialEducation/SupportsServices/specializedprograms

Medical Forms - Office of School Health

http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Health/SchoolHealthForms



(37

Questions or Concerns?

Developing a Kindergarten IEP

- If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the Department of Education (DOE) representative listed on your blue Notice of Referral.
- You can also contact us at a Committee on Special Education (CSE) office. Contact information is in the guide.
- If you experience a problem that cannot be resolved by your DOE representative or CSE, you can ask for additional assistance by calling 718-935-2007 or emailing <u>Turning5@schools.nyc.gov</u>.

Kindergarten Admissions and Gifted & Talented Admissions

• If you have questions or need assistance, please call 718-935-2009 or email ESenrollment@schools.nyc.gov.



Thank you for coming today!

We are here to help throughout this process.

We are looking forward to working with you so that you and your child will be prepared for a great year in kindergarten!





84

Before you go . . .

Please take a few minutes to complete our survey about the presentation and return it at the table on your way out.

We value your feedback.

Thank you!

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Questions?

We'll now answer any questions you've submitted on your Comment Cards.

We will stay after the meeting to answer individual questions.



