

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Catherine E. Pugh**  
*Mayor, City of Baltimore*

**Cheryl A. Casciani**  
*Chair, Baltimore City Board of  
School Commissioners*

**Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

## EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE

### ABOUT EARLY ADMISSION

Thank you for your interest in early admission to kindergarten and first grade for your child. We are very pleased to provide information and assistance to families as they consider the many options available for their children at Baltimore City Public Schools.

According to regulations of the Maryland State Board of Education:

- To enter **Kindergarten**, children must be 5 years old by September 1<sup>st</sup> of Kindergarten year
- To enter **1<sup>st</sup> Grade** children must be 6 years old by September 1<sup>st</sup> of 1<sup>st</sup> grade year

Pursuant to the same regulations, exceptions to this age requirement may be made if City Schools determines that a child demonstrates capabilities warranting early admission. In City Schools, to be eligible for early admission, a child's birthday must fall between September 2 and October 15 and the child must be clearly ready for, and able to benefit from, the academic standards-based curriculum offered in City Schools' classrooms.

City Schools' standards for early admission are very high to ensure that young children are not frustrated by the challenges and expectations of the curriculum. To demonstrate that they meet these rigorous standards, children must have exceptional ability in areas of social, emotional, and cognitive development.

### EARLY ADMISSION PROCESS

The process by which City Schools will consider your child for early admission to kindergarten or first grade includes the following:

1. As the child's parent or guardian, please complete sections 1-3 of the application included in this packet.
2. Have a teacher, principal, teacher's assistant, or child care provider complete section 4 of the application included in this packet. Students applying to kindergarten must have 2 Kindergarten Teacher Checklists completed. Students applying to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade must have 3 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher Checklists completed.
3. Return a completed Early Admission Packet (Sections 1-4) to the Office of Early Learning, 200 E. North Ave., Room 308, Baltimore, MD 21202 **by May 23, 2019.**
4. A member of City Schools' Early Admission Team, which is made up of highly qualified professionals in early childhood education, will contact you to schedule an early admission test date for your child. The test will take approximately 2 hours. Parents are to wait for their child at the Office of Early Learning for the duration of the test.
5. Your child must achieve a cumulative average score in the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher to be eligible for early admission.
6. You will be notified by mail regarding the early admission decision. If your child has been successful, you may take the letter as proof of admission to your local school.

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- If your child is not granted early admission, you may appeal the decision to the Chief Academic Officer (CAO) of City Schools. You must send a letter to the Office of Early Learning within 15 calendar days of the date on the notification letter, stating why you believe your child should be granted early admission despite not meeting the requirements.

## Timeline for Early Admission To Kindergarten and First Grade

Early Admission Procedures	Dates for 2019 -2020 School Year
Parent/Guardian submit Sections 1-4 of Early Admission Packet to the Office of Early Learning (200 E. North Ave., Room 308). <b>All mail must be postmarked by May 23, 2019.</b>	April 23 – May 23, 2019
Once a complete packet has been received, parent/guardian is contacted by Office of Early Learning staff to schedule a date for an early admission test.	April 23 – May 23, 2019
Children are assessed at the Office of Early Learning.	June 19 – June 27 2019
Parent/Guardian receives notification letter regarding acceptance or denial for early admission. A copy of the letter is sent to the student's school.	July 2019
Parent/Guardian may appeal decision to Chief Academic Officer (CAO).	15 calendar days after date on notification letter

If you have any questions or need additional information about City Schools' early admission process, please contact us. We will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Crystal Francis

Director, Early Learning Programs

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## EARLY ADMISSION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

### **Is early admission the best choice for my child?**

Please consider the following:

- Younger students need to be capable of working in a classroom setting with children older by a year or more.
- Entering school early is a long-term decision that parents are making for their child. The potential social/emotional impact on the child as he or she progresses through elementary, middle, and high school, and beyond, is not predictable.

### **Why do applicants for Early Admission have to be assessed when other children entering kindergarten or first grade do not?**

Children who are not age-eligible must demonstrate above-average performance in academics as well as social/emotional development. The standards for early admission are high to ensure that students are not frustrated with their accelerated placement.

### **How should children be prepared for the test?**

Parents/Guardians should ensure that their child has rested adequately and had sufficient nourishment to participate in the testing. Children do not need any additional special preparation.

### **How long is the test? Who is administering the test?**

The test is approximately 2 hours long and is administered by highly qualified early childhood education teachers in the Office of Early Learning. Parents/guardians are required to wait for their child while the test is administered.

### **If my child misses the test date, can my child re-take the test?**

The test is only administered one time to each child. Children cannot be retested for any reason.

### **If my child is not accepted for early admission, does it mean that he or she is behind their peers academically?**

No, not at all. The qualifications for early admission include the demonstration of exceptional skills and competencies. The testing is not meant to assess 'readiness' but rather exceptionality that would warrant accelerated placement for your child. City Schools' classes are highly differentiated, since students enter school with a wide variety of strengths and needs.

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## APPLICATION FOR EARLY ADMISSION

Please ensure that all documents included in this packet are completed and submitted to the Office of Early Learning at **200 E. North Avenue, Room 308 Baltimore, MD 21202**. A child will not receive a testing date until ALL documents have been submitted.

### SECTION 1: PERSONAL INFORMATION (TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN)

School of interest: School name: \_\_\_\_\_ School number: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name (last, first, middle initial): \_\_\_\_\_

Child's date of birth (must be between Sept. 2 and Oct. 15): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian names: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (where the child resides): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number(s) (Put a check next to the best number in which to contact you):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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### SECTION 2: PRIOR SCHOOL EXPERIENCE (TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN)

List the preschool, Head Start, and/or child care programs your child attended. Include the dates of attendance.

Name of School/Program	Dates of Attendance



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## SECTION 4: TEACHER CHECKLIST (KINDERGARTEN)

Please read each statement and indicate the student's abilities as listed below by checking the appropriate column.

PHYSICAL WELL-BEING & MOTOR DEVELOPMENT	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
Runs, jumps, and climbs with balance and control				
Uses crayons, markers, & pencils to write and draw with control				
Cuts with scissors independently				
Knows and follows rules and understands the reasons for rules				
PERSONAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
Interacts cooperatively with adults and other children				
Persists with tasks long enough to complete them or attain a goal				
Follows directions, rules, and routines without much assistance from an adult				
Shares toys easily and takes turns with other children				
LANGUAGE AND LITERACY	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
Expresses ideas clearly; uses an extensive or advanced vocabulary				
Writes name				
Can identify letters				
Uses letters to write words				
Writes sentences and stories				
MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
Can recognize numbers 0-20				
Use problem solving strategies to gain understanding				
Writes numbers 1-10				
Can recognize shapes and talks about their attributes				
Puts objects in order from smallest to largest				
Describes characteristic and basic needs of living things				
Observes objects and is curious about how they work				

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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## SECTION 4: TEACHER CHECKLIST (FIRST GRADE)

Please read each statement and indicate the student's abilities as listed below by checking the appropriate column.

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
Hear and identify long and short vowel sounds in words.				
Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.				
Ask and answer questions about key details in text.				
Spell unknown words phonetically, drawing on phonemic awareness and spelling conventions.				
Present knowledge and ideas through speaking.				
Writes sentences and stories.				
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
Communicate mathematical problems and solutions clearly and accurately, using appropriate symbols, definitions, and degrees of precision.				
Add and subtract within 20 and fluently within 10. Use strategies to add and subtract.				
Read and write numbers.				
Analyze and interpret data.				
Count to 120 starting at any number.				
Ask questions (for science) and define problems (for engineering).				
PHYSICAL WELL-BEING & MOTOR DEVELOPMENT	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
Performs a variety of locomotor skills: hops, gallops, slides using a mature pattern.				
Differentiates between fast and slow speeds.				
PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
Accepts personal responsibility by using equipment and space appropriately.				
Demonstrate appropriate social skills necessary for working in a cooperative group.				
Explain how school and community rules promote orderliness, fairness, responsibility, privacy, and safety.				

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



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