

# BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## Questions Frequently Asked by Parents about Kindergarten Entry Applicable to School Year 2009-2010

1. *What is the age of entry into kindergarten for school year 2009-2010?*  
For school year 2009 - 2010 children must be five (5) years of age on or before September 1, 2009. The date of birth must fall between 9/2/2003 and 9/1/2004.
2. *What are my options if my child misses the cut-off date?*

  - A parent/guardian may request early admission into kindergarten testing. **In order to be eligible for early admission testing for school year 2009-2010**, the child's date of birth must fall between 9/2/2004 and 10/14/2004. **Children whose birthdays fall beyond October 14, 2009 are not eligible for testing.**
  - If a child is not eligible for early admission testing, a parent/guardian may have his/her child screened for prekindergarten if a prekindergarten program exists in the home school. If a prekindergarten program does not exist in the home school, the parent/guardian may still have the child screened for automatic eligibility based upon an economic need.
3. *How do I apply for early admission into kindergarten testing for my child?*  
A parent/guardian must submit a written request for early admission into kindergarten to the **home school** principal. The letter of request must include the following:

  - Name of the child
  - Child's date of birth
  - Name, address, and phone number of parent/guardian
  - Reason for request
4. *When can I apply for early admission into kindergarten testing for my child?*  
Letters of request will be accepted between January 15, 2009 and June 1, 2009 for school year 2009-2010. Note: For students whose parents/guardians are applying for a magnet program, letters of request for early admission into kindergarten testing should be accepted prior to January 15, 2009.
5. *What determines whether or not my child is recommended for early admission into kindergarten?*  
A standardized assessment will be administered to your child. A child must score in the above average range on 10 of the 13 assessment subtests in order to be recommended for entrance into kindergarten prior to the guidelines established by the Maryland State Department of Education.

6. *When will my child be tested and how do I find out the results of the testing?*
- A meeting with a school administrator will be scheduled **within two weeks** following the receipt of the written request for early admission testing.
  - **Unless other arrangements are mutually agreed upon** testing will be conducted **at the home school within one month** following the meeting with an administrator.
  - **Within ten business days**, a written recommendation regarding early admission into kindergarten will be sent to the home.
7. *In what areas will my child be tested?*
- Thirteen subtests will be administered to your child. They include:
- Letter-Word Identification – identifying printed letters and words
  - Story Recall – listening to and recalling details of stories
  - Understanding Directions – listening to instructions and following directions
  - Spelling – demonstrating prewriting skills
  - Passage Comprehension – identifying a picture or key word in a passage
  - Applied Problems – demonstrating knowledge of early math concepts
  - Writing Samples – communicating ideas in writing
  - Delayed Story Recall - recalling details of stories previously relayed
  - Word Attack – applying skills to pronounce regular and nonsense words
  - Picture Vocabulary – orally identifying the names of pictured objects
  - Oral Comprehension – identifying a missing word in an oral passage
  - Academic Knowledge – responding to general knowledge questions
  - Sound Awareness – using phonological awareness skills
8. *Can I be in the room with my child when he/she is tested?*
- A parent/guardian may wait in a designated area of the school or be in the room with his/her child during the testing. A parent/guardian may not leave the school building while his/her child is being tested.
9. *Can I prepare my child for the test?*
- No preparation is needed for the assessment.
10. *Can my child take the test a second time?*
- The assessment is only administered one time to each child.
11. *How long will the test take?*
- Children respond differently to the testing. In order for short breaks to be taken by the child, plan for approximately two hours.
12. *My child's first language is not English, but I still want him/her tested. What can I do?*
- The assessment is only administered in English. This should be discussed at the meeting with the school administrator.
13. *I just moved into Baltimore County and the date has passed for requesting early admission into kindergarten. Can I send a letter of request now?*

Yes, as long as documentation indicating a move into Baltimore County after June 1, 2009 can be provided and the child's date of birth is not after October 14, 2009.

14. *Will testing for early admission into a nonpublic kindergarten be accepted for early admission into a Baltimore County kindergarten?*

No. Testing must be administered by a trained examiner at the home school and must occur in accordance with the BCPS *Guidelines for Applying for Early Admission into Kindergarten*.

15. *My child will be attending a nonpublic kindergarten program in Maryland. Can he/she transfer from the nonpublic program into a BCPS kindergarten during the school year?*

As per COMAR 13A.08.01.01C, "A child who resides in this State and attends a nonpublic kindergarten program for part of the year may transfer to a public kindergarten **if the child meets the minimum age requirement for admission to a public school kindergarten program....**" For school year 2009 – 2010 the child must have **turned 5 by September 1, 2009.**