

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Questions Frequently Asked by Parent(s)/Guardian(s) about Kindergarten Entry Applicable to School Year 2012-2013

- 1. What is the age of entry into kindergarten for school year 2012–2013?*
For school year 2012–2013, children must be five (5) years of age on or before September 1, 2012. The date of birth must fall between 9/2/2006 and 9/1/2007.
- 2. What are my options if my child misses the cut-off date?*

 - Parents/guardians may request testing for early admission into kindergarten. **In order to be eligible for early admission testing for school year 2012–2013**, the child's date of birth must fall between 9/2/2007 and 10/14/2007. **Children whose fifth birthday falls beyond October 14, 2012, are not eligible for early admission to kindergarten.**
 - If a child is not eligible for early admission, the parent(s)/guardian(s) may have his/her child screened for eligibility for prekindergarten.
- 3. How do I apply for early admission to kindergarten testing for my child?*
Parent(s)/guardian(s) must submit a written request for early admission into kindergarten to the Baltimore County Public Schools' (BCPS) **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(s)/guardian(s)
 - Reason for request
- 4. When can I apply for early admission to kindergarten for my child?*
Letters of request will be accepted between January 17, 2012, and June 1, 2012, for school year 2012–2013. Note: For students applying for a magnet program, early admission request must be submitted to the home school principal by no later than November 30, 2011. Assessment for students applying for enrollment in a magnet program will take place in January so that the recommendation decision for early admission may be forwarded to the Office of Magnet Programs by no later than January 30, 2012.
- 5. What determines whether or not my child is recommended for early admission to 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 date established by the Maryland State Department of Education guidelines.

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 (10) 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?*

One parent/guardian may be in the room with his/her child during the testing session. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may also wait in a designated area of the school but 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?*

Under certain conditions, a parent(s)/guardian(s) who moves into Baltimore County after the June 1, 2012, deadline may request early admission to kindergarten. In order for a request to be considered, the child's birthday must fall between September 2 and October 14 **AND** the request must be made by no later than the first day of school for the 2012–2013 school year.

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 BCPS' *Guidelines for Applying for Early Admission to 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 2012–2013 the child must have **turned 5 by September 1, 2012.**

16. *My child does not meet the September 1 cut-off date but is currently enrolled in a public kindergarten in another Maryland jurisdiction. If I move, can my child transfer into a BCPS kindergarten program?*

Students moving into Baltimore County after the beginning of the school year, who were enrolled in a **public kindergarten in Maryland or in a public kindergarten in any other state, may be placed in kindergarten regardless of whether they meet the age of entry guidelines for Maryland.** Documentation confirming enrollment in a public kindergarten must be provided prior to registration in a BCPS kindergarten.