

What does the Kindergarten program look like in St. Mary's County Public Schools?

Kindergarten is a full day program available in each elementary school. Kindergarten curriculum information is available at <http://www.smcps.org/dci> by selecting Mathematics–Elementary or English Language Arts–Elementary.

Some things to think about.....

- The intent of the early entrance procedures is to make Kindergarten available to a high performing student who is capable of working in a classroom setting with children who may be over a year older. These standards are high to ensure that children are not frustrated by the acceleration.
- Young children are emotionally vulnerable and may become stressed when adult expectations for their performance exceed capabilities.
- Early entrance is an accelerated placement for the entire school career not just Kindergarten, so this decision must be made with caution and careful consideration.

Students who meet the required benchmark scores will automatically receive entrance into Kindergarten



St. Mary's County Public Schools

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Mrs. Lisa Bachner
Chief Academic Officer

**For more information,
call 301-475-5511 ext. 32101.**



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Early Entrance into Kindergarten

2025-2026



APPLICATION PROCESS



UNDER MARYLAND LAW, CHILDREN MUST BE FIVE YEARS OLD ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2025 TO ENTER KINDERGARTEN IN THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR



What is Early Entrance and can my child be considered for it?

SMCPS will consider early entrance to Kindergarten for high performing children who are five years old by November 1 and who demonstrate capabilities in reading and mathematics warranting early admission. Early entrance is considered acceleration. It is not a waiver of the age of entry regulations.



When can we apply for Early Entrance to Kindergarten?

Applications will be accepted May 5, 2025 through July 18, 2025

For families moving into St. Mary's County after July 18, 2025, from another area, applications will be accepted until August 8, 2025.



How do we apply for Early Entrance to Kindergarten?

The procedures for early entrance to Kindergarten include the following steps:

1.) Request an application from Caitlin DeMarr at our main office:

Phone: (301)-475-5511 Ext. 32101

Email: cmdemarr@smcps.org

2.) Complete and submit the application, proof of residency, and proof of child's date of birth to Caitlin DeMarr.

3.) Once all documentation has been received, you will be contacted by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction to schedule an assessment date for your child.

When will we know the results of our application?

The decision regarding early entrance will be based on the review of the application and the results of the assessment. You will receive a letter with the decision from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction within two weeks of the assessment date.

- If your child is granted early entrance to Kindergarten, all relevant Kindergarten policies will apply to him/her, including school attendance.
- The child's placement in kindergarten will be monitored closely for the first thirty days to assure his/her successful adjustment.
- If concerns are expressed by school staff and/or the child's parent(s)/guardian(s), the Pupil Services Team will meet to review the placement and make a recommendation concerning continued placement.