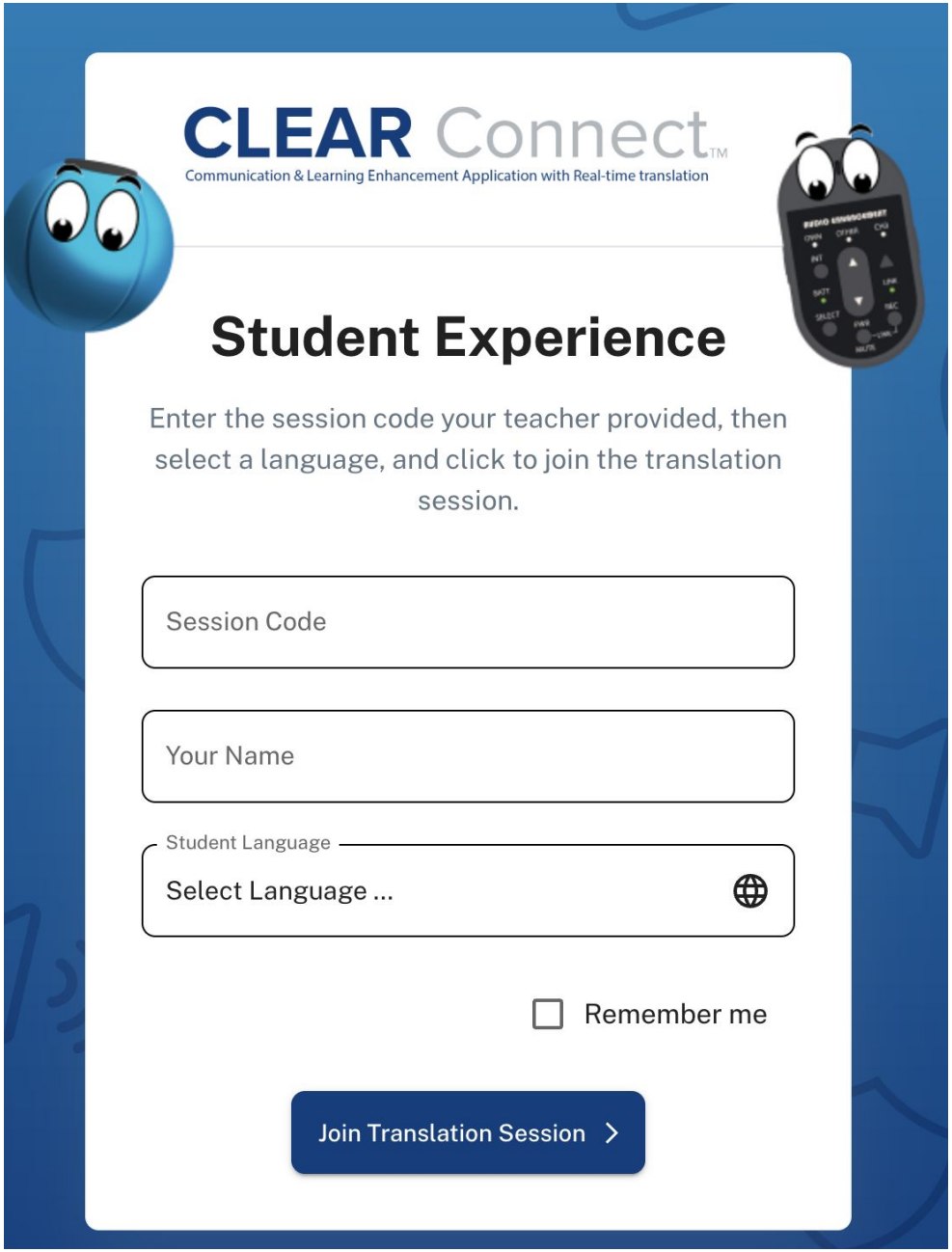
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Newton Public Schools
Kindergarten Family Information Night
March 2, 2026

Interpretation is available:

aeclearconnect.live

Session Code: CJM-349







Newton Public Schools
Family Information Night

March 2, 2026
7:00 pm
Webinar

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Välkommen
BENVENUTO
laukiamas Velkomin
Bienvenue
Croeso
VITAJTE
Welcome
Benvido
Bienvenido
velkommen
BENVINGUT!
Bonvena
καλωσόρισμα
Fáilte
Dobrodošli
BEM-

Welcome


WELCOME
TO
KINDERGARTEN
Today's
Do you have
Hola

With us here tonight:

- Anna Nolin, Superintendent
- Ayesha Farag, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education
- Elementary School Principals
- Lisa Gilbert-Smith, Director, Newton METCO
- Dianne Lochhead, Interim Director of Elementary Special Education
- Lauren Harrison, Assistant Director of English Learner Programs
- Christina Maryland, Director of Communications & Family Engagement



Newton Elementary Education Department

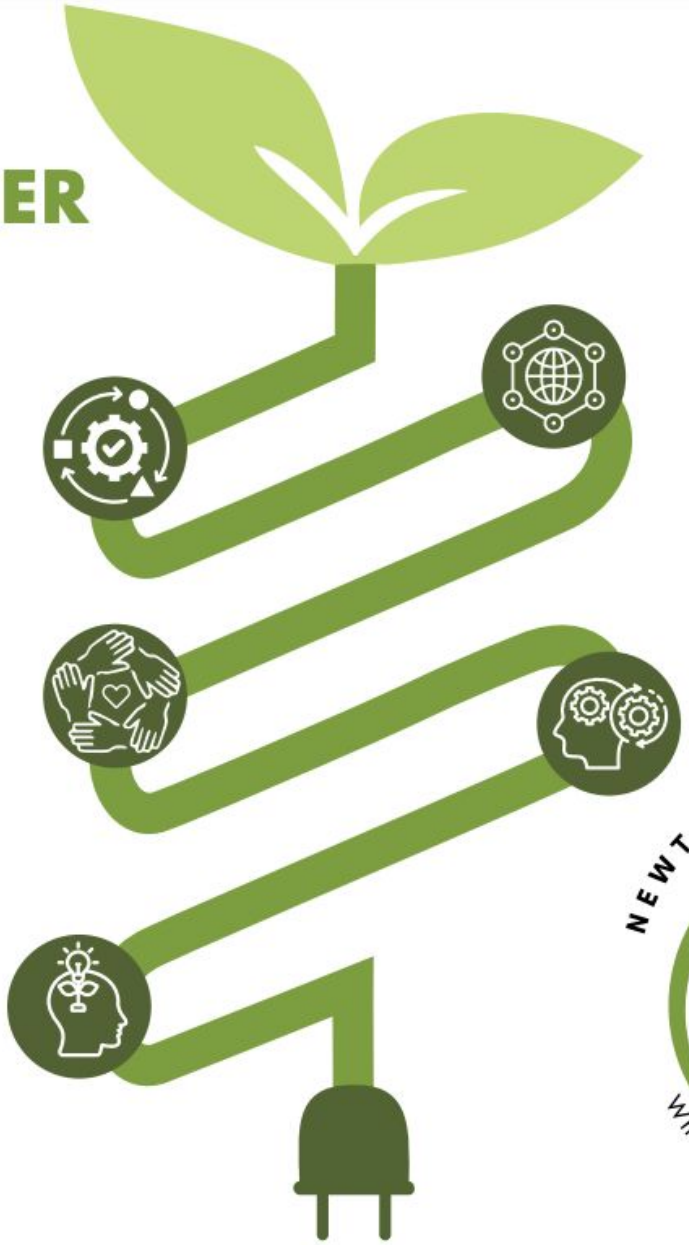


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Every student
Every day
Nurtured, challenged, & inspired

PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER



ADAPTABILITY

Demonstrate the ability to adjust their learning strategies, behaviors, and thinking to effectively navigate changing situations, new challenges, or different learning environments within the classroom.

EMPATHY

Embracing diverse perspectives with flexible thinking, compassion, and cultural awareness to adapt, connect, and create meaningful growth.

LEARNER'S MINDSET

Demonstrates the ability to stay curious, persevere through challenges, take risks, reflect on mistakes, and use feedback to grow. It involves asking thoughtful questions, taking risks, seeking opportunities to learn, supporting others, and approaching tasks with a focus on growth and understanding rather than outcomes.

COMMUNICATION

Seeks to understand other perspectives, articulates thoughts and ideas, and communicates across multiple contexts.

CRITICAL THINKING

Questioning deeply, analyzing rigorously, and collaborating effectively to solve complex problems with clarity and reason.

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Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Newton Elementary Schools Overview**

  ***Ayesha Farag**, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education*
  ***Lisa Gilbert-Smith**, Director, Newton METCO*
  ***Dianne Lochhead**, Interim Director of Elementary Special Education*
  ***Lauren Harrison**, Assistant Director of English Learner Programs*

- **The Kindergarten Program**

  Elementary Principals

- **Registration/Screening Process**

  ***Christina Maryland**, Director of Communications & Family Engagement*

  Elementary Principals

- **Next Steps**

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Elementary Overview



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Elementary School by the Numbers
School Year - Typical (10/1/25 Enrollment Information)

- 15 elementary schools serving approximately 5,000 students from Newton and Boston
- 247 elementary classrooms
- 687 kindergarten students in 39 classrooms
- Average kindergarten class size is 17.6 students

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Newton METCO Program

METCO is a state-funded, seat-availability, voluntary integration program

Mission: To provide an opportunity for students from racially imbalanced schools in Boston and students from isolated suburban schools to learn together in an integrated setting.

- **Original founding member (1966); METCO has been in NPS for over 60 years**
- **Originally 200 hundred students, now 3000 students in 32 suburban school districts. NPS is the largest district enrolling over 400 students K-12. 3% of the NPS student population**
- **All students benefit from a district that includes and supports racially, culturally and linguistically diverse learners. In Newton, we learn together!**

Student Services: Student Supports

- **We understand that all students need extra help or support at one time or another.**
- **In our elementary school we have social workers, psychologists and Social Emotional Team members available to all students.**
- **Our goal is to support student learning**



Student Services: Special Education

Inclusion is a belief that everyone belongs and everyone benefits.

~NPS Guide to Special Education Programs

- **If your child is already on an Individual Education Program (IEP) via NECP, then they will support the transition to the elementary team this spring.**
- **Each elementary school has a <u>Team Specialist</u>. This is the contact person for questions/concerns about special education.**



Special Education Parent Advisory Council

The Newton Special Education Parent Advisory Council (Newton SEPAC) is an all-volunteer group of parents of children with special needs in Newton, MA. As mandated by Massachusetts law, SEPAC provides feedback to the School Committee and school district on special education programs and policies, and participate in their planning and development.

Find out more at: www.newtonsepac.org

Link to our brochure and translations:
https://newtonpac.org/brochure-and-fliers/

List of SEPAC Liaisons by school

Email: NewtonSEPACLiaisons@gmail.com



English Language Learner (ELL) Program

- Currently 738 students PreK-12
- ELL office staff screening
  - Gareth Lindwall Honig is our ELL Intake Specialist.
- Students who qualify for English language services will be enrolled in the ELL program
- ELL Services are generally delivered in the Kindergarten classroom
- Classroom teachers use “Sheltered English Immersion”
- NPS values multilingualism!



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Newton English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC)

The mission of the Newton ELPAC is to work to promote multilingual and multicultural values for all students and to aid in the integration process of new English language learners into the Newton community.

For more information:
Phone: 617-559-6043 (ask to leave a message for the ELPAC)
Email: npselpac@gmail.com
Facebook Group: tinyurl.com/NPSELPACFB
Website: tinyurl.com/NPSELPAC

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Newton Parent Teacher Council

The Newton Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Council is an umbrella organization composed of all 22 PTOs in the city of Newton, Massachusetts. Its members are the current and past presidents of each PTO. The Council's ultimate purpose is to support all Newton parents in the quest for the highest quality of education in the city.

Angier PTO	Bowen PTO	Burr PTO	Cabot PTO	Countryside PTO
Franklin PTO	Horace Mann PTO (Instagram)	Lincoln-Eliot PTO	Mason-Rice PTO	Memorial Spaulding PTO
Peirce PTO	Underwood PTO	Ward PTO	Williams PTO	Zervas PTO

Email:
co-presidents@newtonptocouncil.org

The Kindergarten Program



Kindergarten Program

- A collaborative team of educators, including kindergarten teachers, assistants, specialists, and others support the development of each child
- Nurtures curiosity and love of learning
- Focuses on developmentally appropriate academics as well as social and emotional development of child
- Structure of the full day program allows time for playful learning throughout the day

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K-5 School Year
Arrival and Dismissal 2025-26

Day of the Week	Arrival	Dismissal
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	8:10 AM	2:50 PM
Wednesday	8:10 AM	12:20 PM

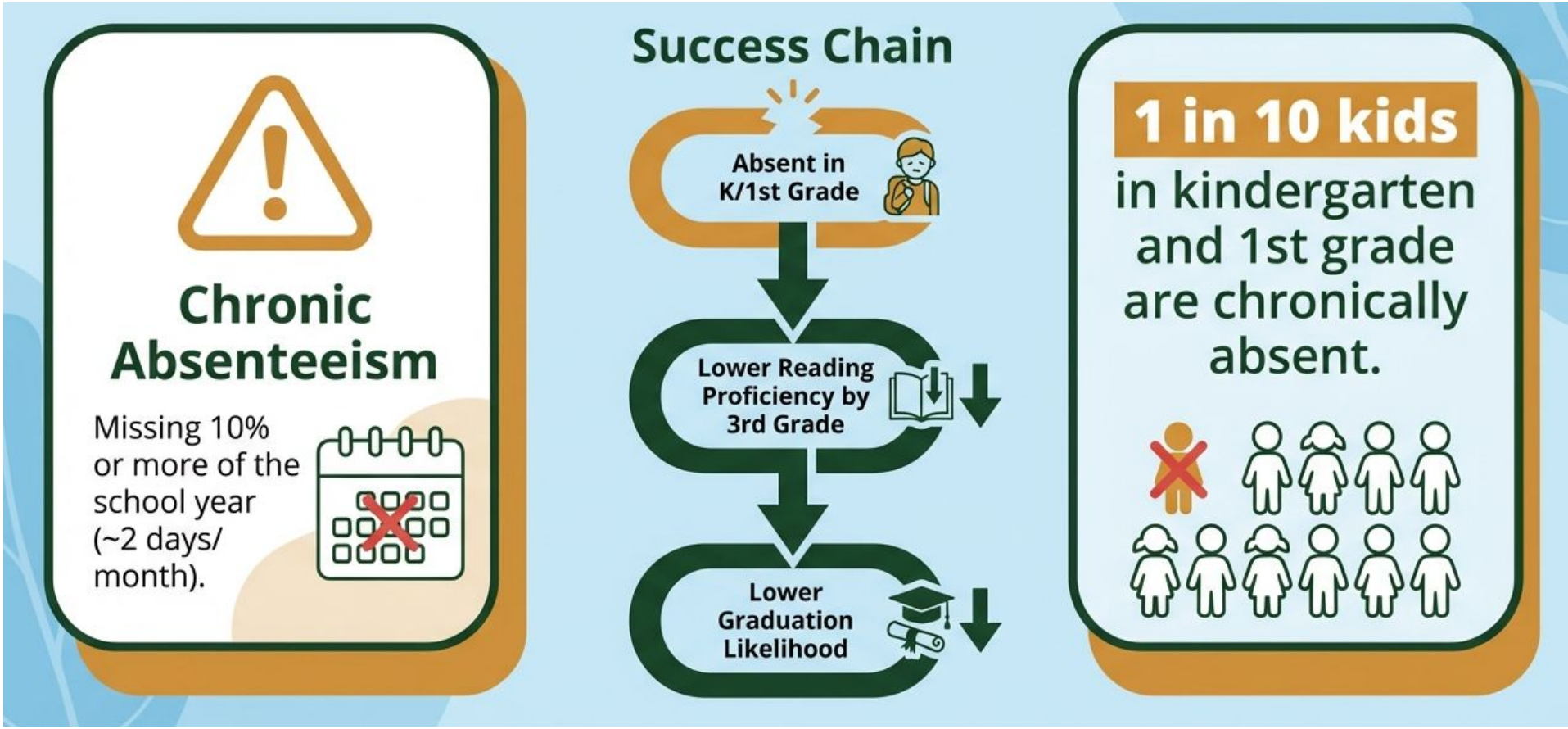
Newton Public Schools/Calendar

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Kindergarten Registration

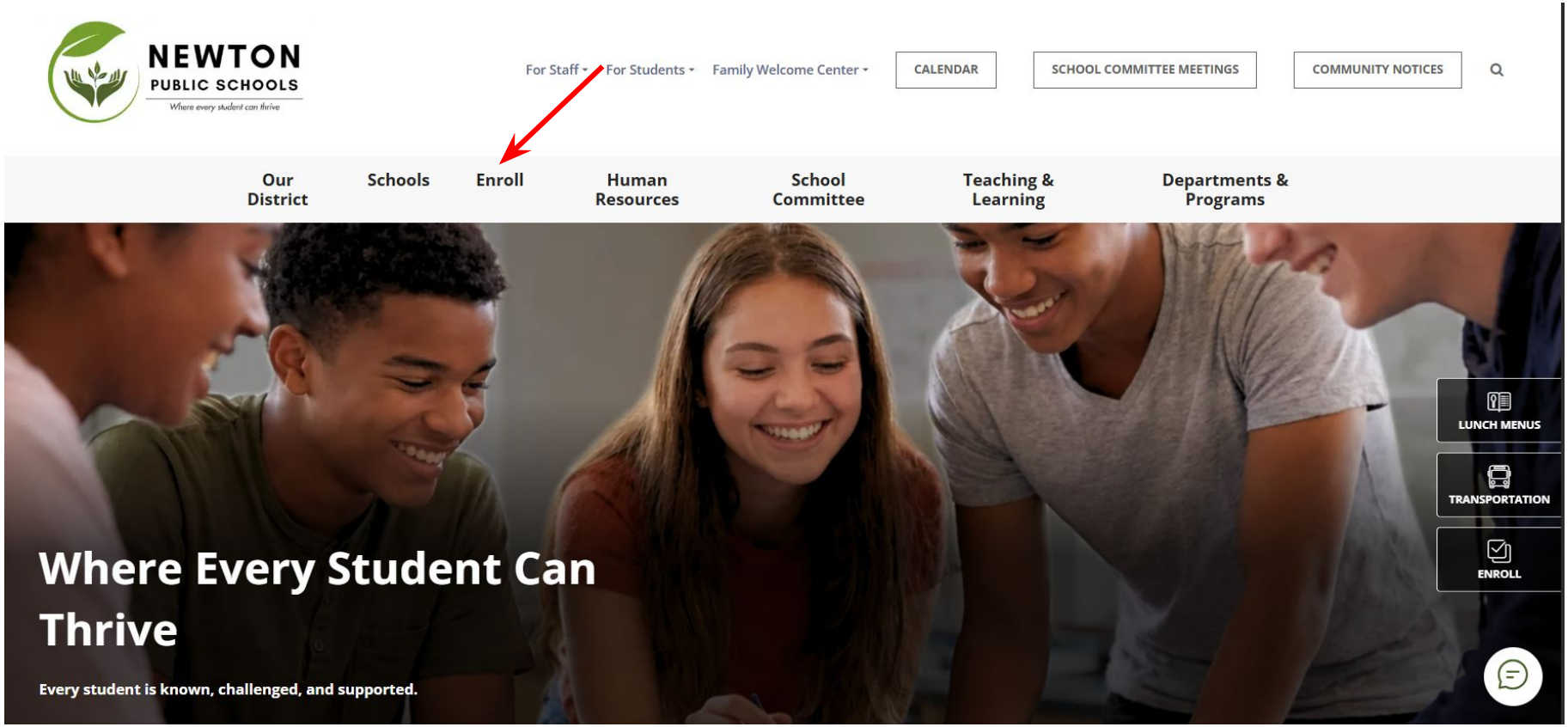


The Importance of Regular Attendance

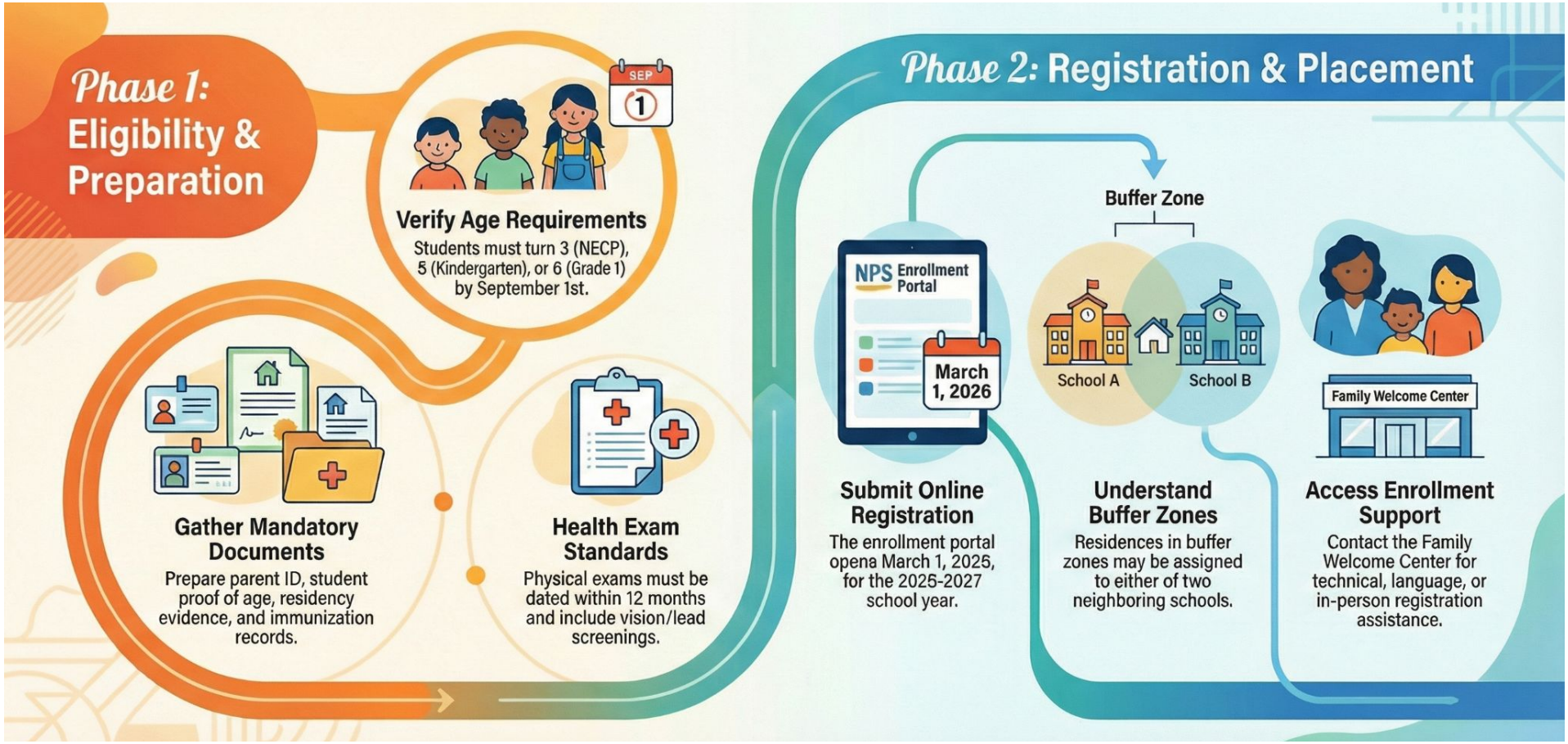


Registration - For More Information

https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/enroll/kindergarten-registration



Registration & Enrollment Roadmap



Online Registration Process

Registration:

- ❏ Registration Checklist (available in multiple languages)
- ❏ Online Registration *(instructions on how to use Aspen)*

Residency and Occupancy:

- ❏ Proof of Residency and Occupancy Information

Medical Forms/Information:

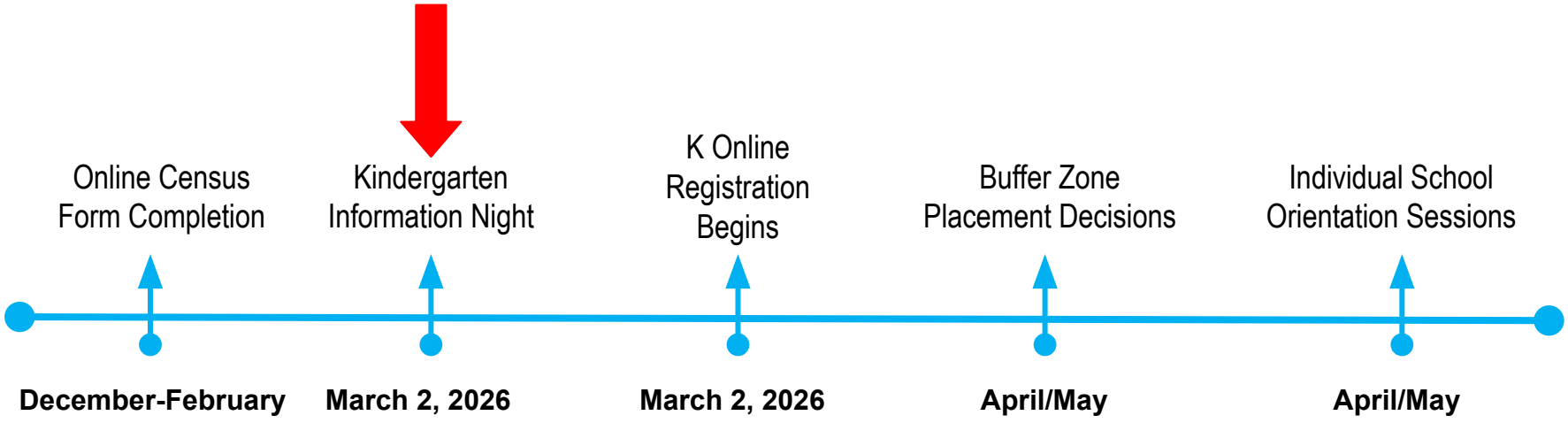
- ❏ Immunization Requirements (Need help getting vaccinations?)
- ❏ Physical Exam Form

For Screening:

- ❏ Parent Interview Form *(this is now part of the online registration process)*

Registration Preparation Note:
Check your address, to see if you live in a buffer zone.

Kindergarten Registration Timelines







https://heaton-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/news/2015.html

Health Department

Role of school nurse



- **Forms:**
  - **Health History**
  - **Health Report**
  - **Immunization Record**
  - **Allergies/Medication**

Bus Registration

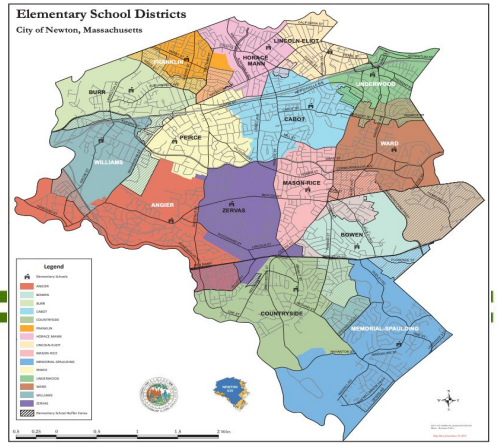
- **School transportation and sign-up information can be found on the Transportation webpage at: www.newton.k12.ma.us/transportation**

- **K-5th grade students** – Students who reside **MORE than 2 miles** from their elementary school and wish to ride the bus may register for bus transportation **free of charge.**
- Students who reside **LESS than 2 miles** from their elementary school and wish to ride the bus may do so by registering and **paying the district bus fee if their school has a bus.**
- **Bus Fee Financial Assistance Information**

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Buffer Zones

A defined area for which individual addresses may be assigned to one of two elementary schools.



- You should check to see if your address falls in a buffer zone by entering your address on the city Residential Services webpage.
- Families may request a preferred school from one of the two designated elementary schools in the zone.
- Requests will be granted **based on space availability.**
- Students in these zones do not have a designated home school until the district assigns them one.

Buffer Zone Notifications

- Initial review of buffer zone placements will occur during the week of March 23, 2026
- The first round of buffer zone notifications to families will be the week of April 6, 2026
- Siblings are placed unless otherwise requested
- Assignments will continue to be made until the K screening window has concluded so that children may participate in school based events
- All decisions on buffer zone registrations received after May 29th will be held until the week of August 17th. Families will receive notice of their assigned school in time for classroom placement and back to school “sneak peek” events.

Kindergarten Screening

School based visits, orientations and screenings will be scheduled by individual schools between April 27 - May 29, 2026

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Kindergarten Screening Dates

School	Save the Date(s)
Angier Elementary School, 617-559-9300	May 12 and 13, 2026
Bowen Elementary School, 617-559-9330	May 6, 2026
Burr Elementary School, 617-559-9360	May 12 and May 18, 2026
Cabot Elementary School, 617-559-9400	May 5, 2026
Countryside Elementary School, 617-559-9450	May 13, 2026
Franklin Elementary School, 617-559-9500	May 7 and 13, 2026
Horace Mann Elementary School, 617-559-9510	May 4 and May 8, 2026
Lincoln-Eliot Elementary School, 617-559-9540	May 6 and May 13, 2026
Mason-Rice Elementary School, 617-559-9570	April 28 and April 29, 2026
Memorial Spaulding Elementary School, 617-559-9600	May 12 and May 13, 2026
Peirce Elementary School, 617-559-9630	May 7, May 14, and May 27, 2026
Underwood Elementary School, 617-559-9660	May 6, 7, and 8, 2026
Ward Elementary School, 617-559-6450	May 7 & 13, 2026
Williams Elementary School, 617-559-6480	May 6 and 8, 2026
Zervas Elementary School, 617-559-6750	May 14, 2026

Screening Process

- Sign in with your child
- School may take a photo of your child
- Your child will go with a teacher to do some activities (20 minutes)
- School staff you may meet with include:
    - Administrative Assistant
    - School Nurse
    - Staff Member to review paperwork
    - After-School Program Director

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Screening Day

The process involves:



School Teams Review:

- ❑ **Developmental history, anticipated learning needs, special issues/concerns, medical documentation**

Student Screening:

- ❑ **Cognitive tasks, language acquisition, motor skills assessment**

Next Steps



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Parent/Guardian “To Do” List

- Confirm your child’s future school (or whether you are in a buffer zone) using the city Residential Services webpage
- Complete your child’s registration using our online system
- Sign up for your school’s PTO newsletter
- Be on the lookout for an invitation to your assigned elementary school visit.
- Be in touch with your assigned school with questions.

School Visits

- **Kindergarteners gather with classroom teachers for games, story and play in late spring**

- **Parents/guardians meet with principal**



What can you do to help your child be "ready" for Kindergarten?

- **Encourage your child's independence**
  - **Self-help skills such as dressing, bathroom, and opening snacks**
- **Encourage your child to advocate for their own needs**
- **Read with your child**
- **Count with your child**
- **Visit your school's playground**
- **Continue using the languages you feel comfortable with at home**
- **Remember: Transitions can be HARD <u>for children and adults</u>!**

Parent Resources - Kindergarten Readiness

- Newton Public Schools/Calendar
- Bus Transportation and School Meals
- Kindergarten Book List
- Kindergarten Readiness Articles from NAEYC:
  - Ready or Not Kindergarten, Here We Come
  - Readiness: Not a State of Knowledge, but a State of Mind

After School Program Options

NASA Website (links to all ASPs): newtonafterschool.org

Newton After School Association (NASA) is a a formal association, made up of Newton's after school program directors, that meets regularly, collaborates as education professionals, and works united in our goal of intentional social & emotional education and quality childcare.

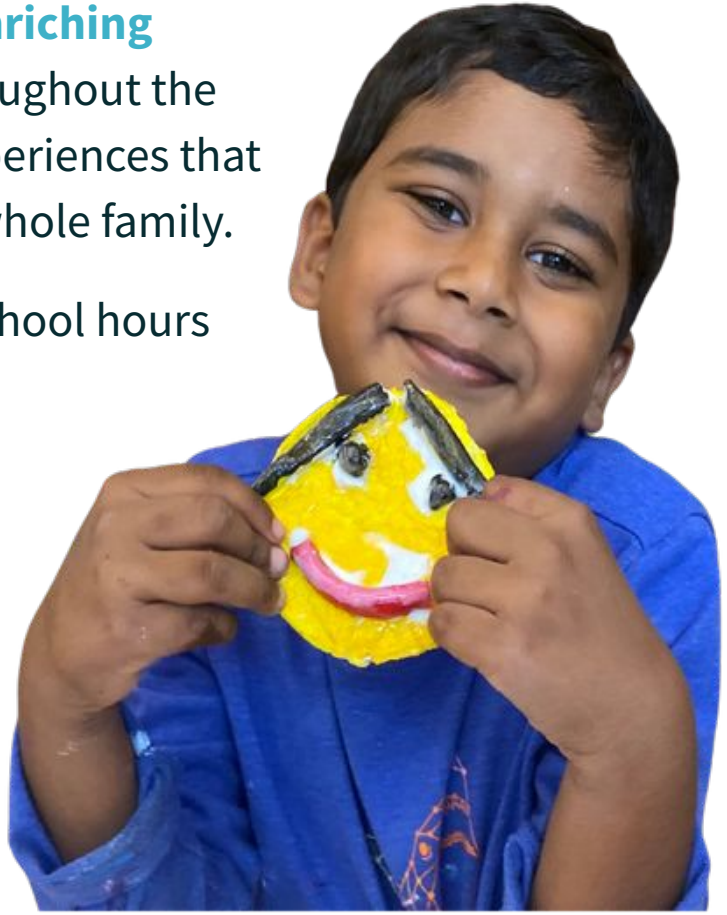
Newton's after school programs are individual non-profits, each governed by a board of directors made up of parents and members from their individual programs to best serve the unique situations within each school community. While we are individual programs, we are a collective under NASA.

NASA programs are not part of Newton Public Schools, but maintain a collaborative professional relationship with the system and rent space in many Newton Public School buildings. Our goal as a partnership is to best serve our collective students and families.

Newton Community Education (NCE)

NCE is a self-sustaining arm of NPS that provides **enriching educational programs** for children and adults throughout the year. We focus on **hands-on**, **engaging** learning experiences that support **curiosity**, **creativity**, and **growth** for the whole family.

- Year-round programming for kids outside of school hours
- Wide range of adult classes and workshops
- Conveniently located at NPS schools
- Need-based scholarships available



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NCE After-School Clubs & Vacation Programs at Your School!

Afterschool Kids Clubs held right at NPS elementary schools

Small-group activities led by experienced instructors

Science experiments, arts & crafts, LEGO®, cooking, French, and STEM

February & April Vacation Week programs









NCE Summer Camps @ NNHS & Zervas Every Week June 29-Aug 21

Camps for rising Ks…

- Nature Explorers
- Circuit Makers 101
- Intro to Cheer
- Lego Challenges
- Gym Games
- Painting Adventures Jr!

Extended day available

Pre-camp swimming lessons 8:15-8:45

Learning that grows with you and your family

newton community education

What is Newton Community Education?

We are a self-sustaining arm of Newton Public Schools dedicated to offering **learning and enrichment opportunities for afterschool and in summer.**

Summer Offerings for Kindergarteners

- ★ Soccer Skills & Drills
- ★ Gadgets & Contraptions
- ★ Swimming Lessons
- ★ Clay Creations
- ★ Hola! Spanish Summer
- ★ LEGO Junior Robotics
- ★ Wicked Cool Vet School

…And Many More!

www.newtoncommunityed.org

Scholarships available!















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Your Homework Assignment…

- Confirm your child's school (and whether you are in a buffer zone) using the city Residential Services webpage
- Review the Registration Checklist
- Gather the required registration documents
- Register your child using our online system

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Thank you for joining us!

