

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 consider:

- 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 their entire school career, not just Kindergarten. This decision must be made with caution and careful consideration.

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



St. Mary's County Public Schools

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Mrs. Katie Kortokrax
Chief Academic Officer

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



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Early Entrance into Kindergarten

2026-2027



APPLICATION PROCESS



**UNDER MARYLAND LAW, CHILDREN MUST BE FIVE YEARS OLD ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2026
TO ENTER KINDERGARTEN IN THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR.**



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

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



When can we apply for Early Entrance to Kindergarten?

***Applications will be accepted**

May 4, 2026 through July 17, 2026*

For families moving into St. Mary's County after July 18, 2026, from another area, applications will be accepted until August 8, 2026.



How do we apply for Early Entrance to Kindergarten?

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

1. Request an Application and Information Profile from Caitlin DeMarr at our main office:
Phone: (301)-475-5511 Ext. 32101
Email: cmdemarr@smcps.org
2. Complete and submit the application & information profile, proof of residence and child's birth date to Ms. DeMarr.
3. Once all documentation has been received, you will be contacted by the Department of Curriculum & 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 an email with the decision from the Department of Curriculum & 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 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 (PST) will meet to review the placement and make a recommendation concerning continued placement.