CPS Kindergarten Lottery

Register Your Child for Kindergarten between January 2 - 29, 2027



Age for Kindergarten

5 years old by August 31, 2027

How to Apply

Register and upload your documents easily through our online registration system.

www.bit.ly/cpslottery

Or, submit your documents via email (src@cpsd.us) or in person at the Student Registration Center.



Register for the K Lottery!

Lottery Registration Begins January 2, 2027 and Ends at 4PM on January 29, 2027

- **OPTION 1: ONLINE**
  Families can register and upload all required documents using the Online Registration System: www.bit.ly/cpslottery
- **OPTION 2: IN-PERSON**
  Families can register in-person at the SRC office by completing a physical registration packet and dropping off all required documents.
- **OPTION 2: EMAIL**
  Families may fill out forms digitally or print and complete all forms and submit scans or photographs of all registration materials, including required documents, via email to the SRC: src@cpsd.us

Required Documents to Submit:

- Child's birth certificate or passport
- Lease, mortgage, or other approved proof of address
- Utility bill dated within 30 days
- Parent/guardian photo identification
- Immunization (shots) record
- Health history form

Submit Your Application & All Required Documents by 4PM on Friday, January 29, 2027!

Questions? Contact us at src@cpsd.us or 617.349.6551.

Important Reminder: Language Immersion Programs & Testing

If a language test is required to determine eligibility to receive program language bonus points in the K Lottery for Amigos, the Mandarin Immersion Program, and the Olá Program, families must schedule the language test in order to ensure that it is completed by 4PM on January 29, 2027.

About Controlled Choice

Controlled Choice has Two Parts: *Parent/Guardian Choice* and *Balancing Schools*

Controlled Choice is an equity-driven school assignment process that takes into account parent/guardian preferences and the goal of creating balanced schools.

How does Parent/Guardian Choice influence assignments?
When registering, you are asked to list three school choices, which will be matched to openings at schools through a computerized system. The system penalizes applications with only 1 or 2 choices.

What is "Controlled" about assignments?
The Controlled Choice assignment process seeks to manage the socio-economic (SES) balance of school communities, as measured by the percentage of students who would or would not qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced Price Meals Program.

How is SES balance determined?
During the lottery, a portion of open seats at each school are designated as either "Paid Lunch" seats or "Free/Reduced Lunch" seats.

When you apply, you are asked to voluntarily disclose which of the two categories applies to your family. The Controlled Choice Form is required, but families may choose to select, "I decline to provide this information." If you decline, the application becomes a "Paid Lunch" application.

How does Balancing affect Parent/Guardian Choice?
The Lottery is designed to assign as many students as possible to one of their choices while managing the balance between the two assignment categories. Students in the "Paid Lunch" assignment category may only be assigned to "Paid Lunch" seats, and students in the "Free/Reduced Lunch" assignment category may only be assigned to "Free/Reduced Lunch" seats.

The system will assign as many students as possible to their First Choice of school before moving on to Second Choices, and finally to Third Choices. It's a lottery, so the system will create a random order for making these assignments (explained further on the next page). At the end of this process, most students will be assigned to one of their school choices.

The Student Registration Center will contact families who did not receive one of their choices to discuss where seats are still available in their assignment category.



What's Special About the January Kindergarten Lottery?

January is the time when future Kindergarten students will have the best opportunity to be matched to a school of their choice.

Parents/Guardians must complete their application and submit all required documents by 4PM on January 29 in order to participate in the January Kindergarten Lottery.

After the January Kindergarten Lottery closes, there may be no seats left at some of our schools. All children will receive a school assignment, but choices will be more limited.

Families may register any time during the month of January. All January registrations are grouped together, so there is no benefit for registering early in the month. All applications that are completed by the 4PM deadline on January 29 will be included in the lottery.

Random Number:
Applications received during the month of January are assigned a random number. Some applications have additional "bonus points" added to give certain groups of students priority.

Sibling Bonus Points:
If you choose a school where a sister or brother will be attending grades K-5 (K-8 for Amigos) next year, your child will receive 2 million "sibling bonus points."

Proximity Bonus Points:
The two schools that are within closest walking distance to your home, with the exception of Tobin Montessori, Amigos School, Olá, and Mandarin Immersion, will each offer 1 million "proximity bonus points." Please utilize our *Find a School* tool located on our website or contact the SRC to learn which two schools are your proximity schools.

Program Language Bonus Points – Amigos, Olá, and Mandarin Immersion:
Students who choose a dual immersion program and speak the program language can take a friendly and brief test to determine whether or not they are eligible for the program language bonus points. (This test must be scheduled and completed by 4PM on January 29.) Program language bonus points add 1 million points to a student's random number. Dual immersion programs do not offer proximity bonus points, but do offer sibling bonus points.

More Points = Better Chances
The maximum number of bonus points a school choice may receive is 3 million. Each child's random number and bonus points are added together to create a point total for each choice. Because many schools fill up with students who selected them as their #1 choice, the more points your #1 choice receives the better your chances in the Lottery.

Find your two proximity schools using the "Find a School" tool!

bit.ly/cps-proximity

How Assignments are Made

A computer assigns students to schools by starting with the highest point score for #1 School Choices.

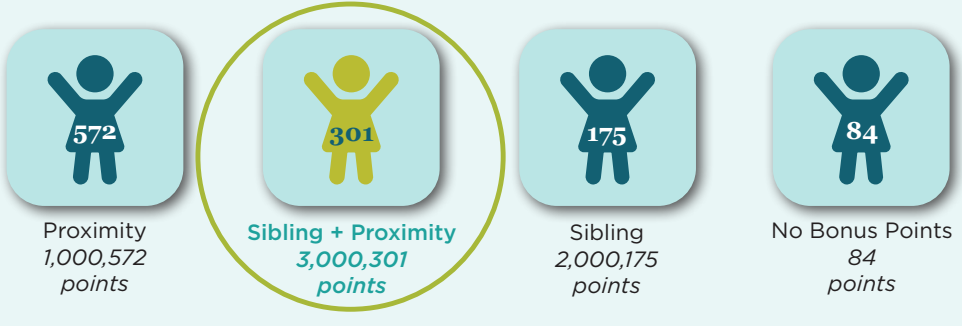
Moving from highest to lowest points, the computer matches as many #1 Choices as possible before moving on. Then, the computer seeks to match unassigned students with available seats at their #2 Choice schools. Finally, the computer seeks to match students with #3 Choices.

Sometimes all seats at a school will fill up with #1 School Choices. Therefore, your #1 choice is most important. Keep in mind that students may only be assigned if the percentage of students who would and would not qualify for Free or Reduced meals remains in balance as defined by the Controlled Choice Policy.



Assignments Example

These students all registered for the same choice of school, and were randomly assigned 572, 301, 175, and 84 points. Only one more seat is available. Who will get in?



Proximity
1,000,572 points

Sibling + Proximity
3,000,301 points

Sibling
2,000,175 points

No Bonus Points
84 points

KEY

Proximity = 1M points
Sibling = 2M points
Proximity + Sibling = 3M points



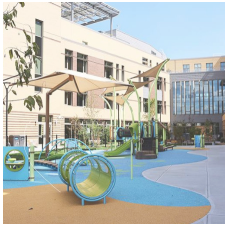










Making Your Choices

How Do I Choose?

Every family's needs and preferences are different, so it's important to make the choices that seem right to you.

- Research your school options on our website.

bit.ly/cps-saag-26-27

- Consider your sibling school as your first choice.
- Learn about your "Proximity Schools," and consider listing one or both among your choices.
- Consider start/end times, location, and whether your child can walk or ride the bus.
- Two schools have an extended, 8-hour school day.

How Do Students Get Placed on Waitlists?

Waitlists are created as part of the lottery results to ensure fair access to available seats. Here is how the waitlist assignments work:

- If your child is assigned to your second choice, they will be placed on the waitlist for your first choice.

- If your child is assigned to your third choice, they will be placed on the waitlists for your first and second choice schools. You will then choose the one waitlist on which you want your child to remain.

- If your child is not assigned to any of the three schools you chose, your child will be placed on the waitlists for all three of your chosen schools. We will inform you of the school(s) that have open seats and assign your child to the school you choose from this list of available options. After they are assigned to a school, you will then choose the one waitlist on which you want your child to remain.

We strongly encourage you to read the Waitlists & Transfers: Preschool-5 (www.bit.ly/cps-waitlist) section of our website in order to familiarize yourself with what can be a complex process.





Other Considerations

Late Registration

Registrations received after 4PM on January 29, 2027 and up until the January lottery results are emailed will be grouped into a second cycle lottery for remaining available seats. After that date, school assignments for Kindergarten are made on a rolling basis to schools where seats are available.

SPECIAL NOTE

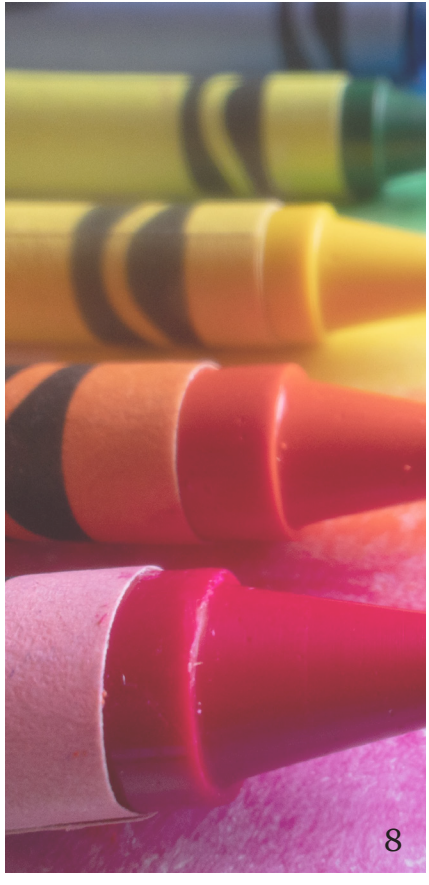
All age eligible 3- and 4-year-olds for September 2027 will need to apply for the Cambridge Preschool Program (CPP) through the Cambridge Office of Early Childhood. Please visit their website for more information: www.earlychildhoodcambridge.org

Liaison Contact Information

For school tours, language assistance, and more...

Schools	Family Liaison	Email/Telephone
Amigos School	Vivian Pales Rodriguez	vpalesrodriguez@cpsd.us; 617.349.6315
Baldwin School	Susan Tiersch	stiersch@cpsd.us; 617.349.6525 x105
Cambridgeport School	Kristen Emack	kemack@cpsd.us; 617.349.6587 x111
Fletcher Maynard Academy	Daniel Skeritt	dskeritt@cpsd.us; 617.349.6589
Graham & Parks School	Lauren Morse	lmorse@cpsd.us; 617.349.6577 x115
Haggerty School	Lissa Galluccio	lgalluccio@cpsd.us; 617.349.6555 x208
King Open School	Neusa DaCosta	ndacosta@cpsd.us; 617.349.6540 x101
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School	Marguerite Hicks-Gyewu	mhicks-gyewu@cpsd.us; 617.349.6454
Morse School	Nancy Wyse	nwyse@cpsd.us; 617.349.6679
Peabody School	Nicole M. Sullivan	nsullivan@cpsd.us; 617.349.6530 x1141
Tobin Montessori School	Sandra Paunov	spaunov@cpsd.us; 617.349.6600 x153

Resources
Special Education Parent Support: Zuleka Queen-Postell – 617.593.4402, zqueen-postell@cpsd.us
Amharic: Aboma Dirbaba – 857.331.1199, adirbaba@cpsd.us | Toyba Abdie – 857.283.7080, tabdie@cpsd.us
Haitian Creole: Diecline Dorvil – 617.201.6039, dbazile-dorvil@cpsd.us
Spanish: Amy Diaz – 617.999.8472, adiaz@cpsd.us
Sheltered English Immersion: Mildrid Gédéon – 617.349.6577 x120, mgedeon@cpsd.us
Special Needs – Office of Student Services: 617.349.6500
Health Related Inquires & Immunizations: Vanessa Sanz – 617.665.3776



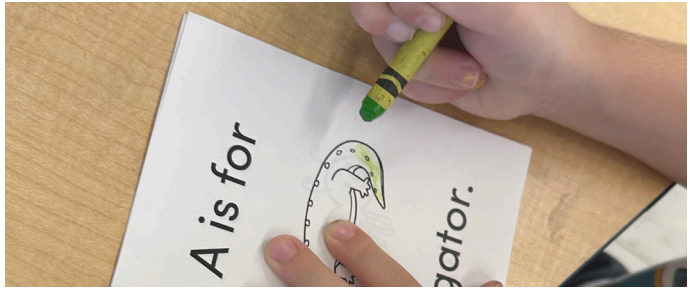
What Happens After You Register

Students with Disabilities/Special Needs

Student IEPs (Individualized Education Program documents) will be reviewed to ensure that your child receives appropriate supports. This will not delay your child's participation in the lottery. If your child has special needs but does not have an IEP, 504 Accommodation Plan, or Individualized Health Plan (for instance, because the disability is new or you are moving from outside of the country), please notify us so that we can connect you with the Office of Student Services.

Waitlisted Students

We will contact waitlisted students as soon as a seat becomes available. To keep the process moving quickly, we are only able to provide you with 48 hours to respond. Please make sure you provide an email address when you register.



Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Your child's school will reach out to you in the spring to invite you to events that will help your family get to know the school and transition to Kindergarten. Teacher assignments are not usually available until late summer. During the first 2 days of school, your child will not attend for a full day, and will instead come for an orientation with your child's teacher.

Kindergarten Lottery Timeline for Families

FALL	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL – JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER/NOVEMBER
Kindergarten Info Sessions School Tours Gather Documents	Registration Language Tests IEP Review	Watch for a letter mailed confirming your application information	School Assignments are Emailed Waitlists Established	Kindergarten Transition Events	School Bus and Other CPS Mailings	School Starts!	Waitlist Renewals Deadline: November 15

Kindergarten Lottery Registration Schedule & Location

Application and all required documents must be submitted and completed by **4PM on January 29, 2027**.

January 2027

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Office Hours: 8:30AM-3:30PM Mon-Fri				1	2 **First Day to Register**
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Closed: MLK, Jr. Day *No Office Hours*	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 **Last Day to Register** Deadline: 4PM	30

REGISTER!

www.bit.ly/cpslottery

Student Registration Center (SRC)
Cambridge Rindge & Latin School
459 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: 617.349.6551 | Fax: 617.349.6552
www.cpsd.us | src@cpsd.us





Student Registration Center

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CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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