



GoCPS for CPS Students Applying to PreK through 8th Grade

GoCPS allows families to research and apply to schools/programs, schedule exams, and receive and accept offers, all on one site, with one application and one deadline. With GoCPS, families can apply to all CPS district and charter high schools, all district elementary schools, and the four magnet preschools. The application process for the 2019-2020 school year opens October 1, 2018, and closes December 14, 2018. Families can apply online or via paper application. To open an online application account, visit go.cps.edu and click 'Login.' If you prefer to apply via paper application, go to go.cps.edu and click 'How to Apply,' starting October 1st, or contact the Office of Access and Enrollment at 773-553-2060 or gocps@cps.edu.

OPENING AN ONLINE ACCOUNT

- When opening an online account at go.cps.edu, CPS families applying to PreK through 8th grade will need to enter the student's CPS ID number. If you do not know this number, or if the student does not have a CPS ID number, there is a link on the online application site where you can request this number. You will receive the ID number via telephone within 48 business hours; once you receive this number, you can continue with the application process.

OPEN HOUSES

- Families can attend school Open Houses beginning in September to help them decide the schools to which they want to apply. Visit go.cps.edu and click 'Dates and Events,' or call the Office of Access and Enrollment at 773-553-2060.

CHOICE SCHOOLS AND SELECTIVE ENROLLMENT SCHOOLS

- Schools are divided into two groups: (1) Choice Schools and (2) Selective Enrollment Elementary Schools.
- Choice Schools are magnet schools, magnet cluster schools, and open enrollment schools. Students are randomly selected for available seats at these schools via computerized lottery.
- Selective Enrollment Elementary Schools are Academic Centers, Classical Schools, the International Gifted Program, Regional Gifted Centers, and Regional Gifted Centers for English Learners. Seats for Academic Centers and the International Gifted Program are filled through a point system based on the student's NWEA MAP scores, final grades from the previous school year, and admissions exam results. Seats for the Classical Schools and Regional Gifted Centers are based on the admissions exam results.

CHOICE SCHOOL DEFINITIONS

- Magnet schools specialize in one subject area, such as Humanities or world language, and in most cases, they do not have neighborhood attendance boundaries. Unless the school has an attendance boundary, all interested students must submit an application. In most cases, transportation is provided if the student lives between 1.5 miles and 6 miles from the school.
- Magnet cluster schools are neighborhood schools that specialize in one subject area, such as fine and performing arts or technology, and accept students who live within their boundary. Students who live outside of the attendance boundary must submit an application. Transportation is not provided.
- Open enrollment schools are neighborhood schools that do not specialize in a particular subject area and accept students who live within their boundary. Students who live outside of the attendance boundary must submit an application. Transportation is not provided.

SELECTIVE ENROLLMENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Academic Centers serve high-achieving students in grades 7-8 and are housed in designated high schools. Once students enter an Academic Center, they can remain enrolled in the school, if they wish, until their graduation from 12th grade.
- Classical Schools provide a challenging liberal arts course of instruction for students in grades K-8 in literature, mathematics, language arts, world language, and the humanities.
- The International Gifted Program serves students in eighth grade at Lincoln Elementary School. Includes intensive study in French, laboratory science, technology, arts, and advanced research.

- Regional Gifted Centers provide an accelerated instructional program that emphasizes thinking, reasoning, problem solving and creativity. Includes a world language or Latin, laboratory science, computer science and fine arts.
- Regional Gifted Centers for English Learners are designed to meet the needs of high-ability students whose primary language is Polish or Spanish.

RANKING PROGRAMS ON THE APPLICATION

- Choice Schools are not ranked in any kind of order on the application. Each lottery is conducted separately. As a result, it is possible to receive an offer from more than one Choice School.
- For Selective Enrollment Elementary Schools, students are considered in the order that the family ranks the schools on the application. Therefore, it is important to rank the schools in the **ORDER OF CHOICE** within each program group. Students can receive, AT MOST, only one offer from each of the program groups to which they apply: (1) Academic Centers, (2) International Gifted Program, (3) Regional Gifted Centers/Classical Schools, and (4) Regional Gifted Centers for English Learners.

PREFERENCES AT CHOICE SCHOOLS

- Siblings: Preference is given to siblings of students who are currently enrolled and will be enrolled in the coming school year.
- Staff Preference: Two seats allotted to entry-grade level applicants of employees of the school.
- Proximity: 40% of seats remaining after the sibling and staff preference selections, are allotted to students who live within a 1.5 mile radius of magnet schools.

PRESCHOOL APPLICATIONS

- You can only apply to four magnet preschools through the GoCPS process for admission in the 2019-2020 school year: Drummond, Inter-American (four-year-olds only), Mayer, and Suder.
- The application process for all other preschools for the 2019-2020 school year is managed by the Chicago Early Learning Process and will take place in spring 2019. Visit chicagoearlylearning.org for information.

SUBMIT APPLICATION

- Applications can be submitted between October 1, 2018, and December 14, 2018. Online applicants must submit their application no later than 11:59 pm on December 14th. Paper applications must be received by the Office of Access and Enrollment no later than 6 pm on December 14th.

APPLICATION RESULTS

- Application results will be released in April 2019. Results for online applicants will be posted to the online accounts. Results for paper applicants will be mailed to the primary address on the application. Families will have a designated amount of time to accept or decline offers. Online applicants can accept or decline offers online. Paper applications will submit a paper confirmation form to accept or decline offers.

WAITLISTS

- Students will be waitlisted for any Choice Schools where they do not receive an offer. After the deadline for accepting/declining offers, schools fill remaining seats by contacting waitlisted students, in order of their waitlist numbers.
- Depending on the type of school, a school can have more than one waitlist per grade. For example, a magnet school can have up to seven waitlists for kindergarten: sibling, staff preference, and proximity, and one for each of the four tiers. Waitlist offers are extended depending on the category a student is in. If a sibling declines an offer, that seat is offered to the first student on the sibling waitlist. If that student declines the seat, it is offered to the second student on the sibling waitlist, etc.
- If a student accepts an offer, and later receives an offer from a school/program for which he/she was waitlisted, the student can accept the offer from the school/program where he/she was waitlisted and decline the initial offer.

END-OF-YEAR APPLICATION PROCESS

- A second application process will take place later in the school year. This process will consist only of high-quality schools that still have seats available. Information about this process will be posted on GoCPS (go.cps.edu).

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

- If families are still interested in exploring school options after the End-of-Year application process, they can visit go.cps.edu for a list of schools that still have seats available. Parents will be instructed to contact the schools directly for next steps.

For more information on the GoCPS process, including guides, videos, and FAQs, visit go.cps.edu.

Office of Access and Enrollment ● (773) 553-2060 ● gocps@cps.edu