

Boston Enrollment Checklist

for students who will be **3, 4, or 5 years old by September 1**

The goal of this document is to provide families guidance on the important deadlines for **free, public school options** in the City of Boston. Boston School Finder recommends that you enroll in all free options to give yourself as many choices as possible.

If you want an overview of all school options for your child, including private school options, go to Boston School Finder's [School Options in Boston](#).

November to December

Boston Public Schools (BPS)

- BPS begins school previews and school and showcases. Visit any schools you are interested in for your child. You can find more information at [DiscoverBPS](#)
- Pre-register for Boston Public Schools at [DiscoverBPS](#), BPS' portal for registration
 - If you speak a language other than English at home, your child may need language testing to get the best school placement option

Boston Public Charter Schools

You are **not guaranteed a seat** in a charter school, so you should **have backup options**

- Create an account for the [Boston Charter Public Schools Online Application System](#)
- Enter the lottery for all Boston Charter schools that your child is age-eligible for

METCO

You are **not guaranteed placement** in METCO, so you should **have backup options**

- Go to the [METCO website](#) to check your child's age eligibility
- Create an account and [apply](#). METCO has several registration rounds per year, so if you miss the first, you can still apply in later rounds.

January to February

Boston Public Schools (BPS)

Boston Public Schools Priority registration opens for students entering K0, K1, K2 (3, 4, or 5-years old by September 1 of year your child will enter school)

- Gather all [required documents](#)
- Register your child at [DiscoverBPS](#). You may visit a BPS Welcome Center for assistance or more information
 - If you speak a language other than English at home, your child may need language testing to get the best school placement option

March

Boston Public Schools (BPS)

- You will receive your BPS school registration by the end of March. If you do not get into one of your top choices, you may still stay on a waitlist

Boston Public Charter Schools

- You will be notified of charter school lottery decisions by early March. If you do not get into one of your top choices, you may still stay on the waitlist

After March

- Decide whether to stay on any school waitlists
- Make a final decision on your child's school for the fall and fill out any enrollment paperwork needed
- Keep in mind that if you did not get into one of your top choice schools, you may still get off the waitlist, even into the start of the school year