



Boston Enrollment Checklist

for students who are **Current 4th or 5th Graders**

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 additional school options for your child, including private school options, go to Boston School Finder's [School Options in Boston](#).

November to December

Boston Public Charter Schools

Many Boston charter schools begin enrollment for 5th or 6th graders

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

Boston Public Schools (BPS)

Most Boston Public Schools (BPS) are pre-K to 6th, pre-K to 8th, 7 to 12th, or 9 to 12th grades. If you'd like to transition your child to a different BPS school, you can follow the steps below:

- Attend school previews and school and school showcases. Make a list and 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](#), by creating a profile and login
 - If you speak a language other than English at home, your child may need language testing to get the best school placement option

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

February to March

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

Boston Public Schools (BPS)

Boston Public Schools Priority registration is open from February through early April. You will receive your child's school registration for BPS by the end of May. If you do not get into one of your top choices, you may still stay on the waitlist

- Make a list of [required documents](#)
- 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

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