

## Boston Enrollment Checklist

for students who are **Current 6th or 8th 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](#).

### October-December

#### Boston Public Schools (BPS)

All Boston Public Schools (BPS) secondary and high schools are **city-wide**, which means that **any student in Boston can attend any school**, regardless of where they live; however, you are not always guaranteed admission into the school of your choice

- 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
- Boston has three exam schools. Learn more about the [exam school process](#). If you are not a current BPS student and want to apply for admission to the exam schools, you must register for the exam school test during the fall prior to the school year of enrollment
  - Current BPS students will take the exam for exam school in their current school
  - Non-BPS students who wish to apply to Boston's exam school must register for and take the exam
- Some BPS high schools have a [special application process](#) or a [separate lottery process](#). Learn more about these processes and application deadlines at schools that interest you
- Attend school previews and school and school showcases. You can find more information at [DiscoverBPS](#)



## 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](#) using an email address
- Enter the lottery for all Boston Charter schools that your child is age-eligible for (you can enter the lottery until February)

## 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 for students entering Grades 7 & 9 is open from January to early February

- 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
- Apply to any schools with a [special application process](#) or a [separate lottery process](#)

## After March

### Boston Public Charter Schools

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

### Boston Public Schools (BPS)

- You will receive your child's school registration for BPS by the end of April for exam schools and end of May. Other special application schools may send out their decisions earlier

### Overall

- 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