

Lottery Procedures

To apply for an available Pre-Kindergarten slot for the upcoming school year, parents & children must meet the following guidelines:

Age

- Students entering Pre-K must be four on or before September 1, 2018. Students who are five and have never been in a Georgia Pre-K program who have been in a Georgia Pre-K program less than 30 days will not be considered for enrollment in our program because of the entry age for public kindergarten and first grade (see below).

Georgia Rule - Entry Age for Public Kindergarten and First Grade:

- A child must be five years old on or before September 1st to enter a public Kindergarten. The child must be six years old on or before September 1st to enter first grade. School systems must verify age before enrollment.
- A child who was a legal resident of one or more states for a period of two years immediately prior to moving to Georgia and who was legally enrolled in either a public Kindergarten or first grade, or a private Kindergarten or first grade accredited by a state or regional association, would be eligible to enroll in Georgia schools, provided that the Kindergarten is five years old by December 31st or the first grader is six by that date.

Registration

- Registration packets may be obtained from Lanier Primary School, McAllister Elementary School or Richmond Hill Primary School. Packets may also be downloaded from the Bryan County School System website: www.bryancountyschools.org.
- Completed registration packets should be submitted to Lanier Primary, McAllister Elementary or Richmond Hill Primary by Friday, March 23rd at 2 pm.
- Students are chosen to attend the Bryan County Pre-K by a lottery drawing which is held at each school in the spring of the year. Students who live in Bryan County must be registered for the Pre-K school within their district zoned area. All registration documents are available on the district and/or school websites, as well as at the school locations. All students who are not chosen at the lottery drawing will be placed on the waiting list for the site where the application was submitted.
- In-county Pre-K student registration will have priority before out-of-county registered students and will be enrolled first either through the lottery drawing or during regular registration up through the first day of school. The only exception would be if the registered out-of-county student is a child of a Bryan County Schools employee. The student would then be counted as an in-county student. All other out-of-county registered students will be placed on the waiting list until all efforts have been made for in-county students to be enrolled. After the first day of school, an out-of-county student may secure a place either in the program or placed on the waiting list.

Transportation

- Transportation via school bus is available within each school's attendance zone for students who live further than 1.5 miles away from the school.
- Parents are responsible for transportation if the student is attending a class outside his/her assigned attendance zone.
- Pre-K students who ride the school bus must have a parent or an adult supervisor present at the bus stop with them before they load the bus and after school waiting for them when the bus arrives at their stop.

Lottery Rules (General Public)

- Selection is based on a lottery drawing that is conducted prior to the upcoming school year.
- Priority is given to children within a school's attendance zone.
- If all spaces in an attendance zone are not filled by in-zone students, then the out of zone lottery drawing results will be used.
- If one sibling is drawn, the other sibling(s) are automatically entered as well, (provided all siblings meet the BFTS age requirement) unless they were the last slot being drawn in the lottery. At that point the parent will have to decide whether to leave the child in the class or not. The remaining sibling(s) will then be placed as the first alternate in the lottery drawings. We prefer to separate siblings into different classes, unless there is a special need and it has been addressed to the site director at the Pre-K program.
- Students are randomly placed and equally distributed by “boys and girls” in each classroom. If a student has an IEP, the Special Education department may help with their placement into a classroom.
- Students who have been drawn from the lottery and placed in a classroom, but do not show up for the beginning of school within the first five days will be removed from the roster and a student will be pulled from the waiting list to replace them. Every effort will be made to get in touch with the parents of this child before removing them from the roster.
- Students who are not “potty trained” by the time they enter Pre-K must be actively training at home and parents are requested to provide pull-ups.

Lottery Exempt (BCS staff)

- All students must meet BFTS age enrollment guidelines.
- BCS employee's children who reside in the home of the employed parent are exempt from the BCS Pre-K Lottery and are automatically enrolled in the BCS Pre-K program (documentation may be required).
- BCS employee's Pre-K children will follow the same attendance zone eligibility as BCS employee's children who are K-12 students.

Lottery Procedures

- Determining admittance in McAllister (MES) and Richmond Hill Primary (RHPS) Pre-K:
 - If there are less in-zone applicants than available slots, all applicants are admitted.
 - If there are more in-zone applicants than available slots, there will be a lottery drawing to determine who is admitted.
 - All in-zone applicants will be drawn and given a lottery number.
 - All in-zone applicants at MES drawn after the number of available slots will be on the in-zone waiting list at MES. If there are available slots in the MES zone and the MES waiting list has been exhausted, the next child on the RHPS waiting list will be offered the slot. BCS transportation will not be offered for these out of zone children. The parents will decide whether to accept or deny the offer.
 - All in-zone applicants at RHPS drawn after the number of available slots will be on the in-zone waiting list at RHPS. If there are available slots in the RHPS zone and the RHPS waiting list has been exhausted, the next child on the MES waiting list will be offered the slot. BCS transportation will not be offered for these out of zone children. The parents will decide whether to accept or deny the offer.
 - Any in-zone applications turned in after the lottery, will be granted in-zone status and will be given the next available in-zone lottery number or placed on the Pre-K Waiting List.

- Determining admittance at Lanier Primary School (LPS) Pre-K:
 - If there are less in-zone applicants than available slots, all applicants are admitted.
 - If there are more in-zone applicants than available slots, there will be a lottery drawing to determine who is admitted.
 - All in-zone applicants will be drawn and given a lottery number.
 - Any applications turned in after the lottery will be placed on the Pre-K Waiting List.

- After the lottery is conducted, the family of the registered child will be notified if selected. The parent/guardian will be given one week (7 days) to accept or refuse the slot. If there is no response or the family decides refuse the slot, the next name on the waiting list will be selected.