

Middle School Admissions Checklist

Get ready for middle school! All New York City 5th graders—and 6th graders at schools that end in 6th grade—can apply to middle school this winter.

The middle school application opens the week of January 11, 2021, and the deadline to apply is February 9. Apply to up to 12 programs on your child's application; list programs in your true order of preference, with your first choice at the top as #1.

Any Time of Year

- ❑ Use the searchable middle school directory at **MySchools.nyc** to explore school options.
- ❑ Check schools' websites: find resources and learn if schools will be hosting any virtual events.
- ❑ Learn about admissions, watch our video series, and get all the latest updates at **schools.nyc.gov/Middle**.
- ❑ Find your school district (1-32) and learn if your child has a zoned school or schools by entering your address at **schools.nyc.gov/Find-a-School** or calling **311**.
- ❑ You can get personalized support on- or offline, including by phone—see  below.

December 2020

- ❑ Set up your MySchools account so you'll be ready to apply! In mid-December 2020, welcome letters were mailed to all current 5th grade DOE public school students; this letter includes your child's unique MySchools account creation code so you can access your account and add them to it.

January - February 2021

- ❑ The middle school application opens the week of January 11. We'll let you know when the application is open. Then, you can log in to your MySchools account to see your child's options, save favorite programs, and build your application.
- ☆ **Apply to middle school by February 9, 2021.** Submit your application online at **MySchools.nyc**, through your school counselor, or through a Family Welcome Center.

Spring - Summer 2021

- ❑ Add your child to additional waitlists and check your place on any waitlist with MySchools. If a program can make your child a waitlist offer, they will contact you directly.

MySchools.nyc

Throughout the admissions process, use this resource to learn about middle schools. When the application period opens, log in to your account to save favorite programs, build your application, and submit it.

schools.nyc.gov/Middle

Find the latest admissions information, deadlines, and updates. Watch videos to learn about middle school admissions, including how to use MySchools.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

Talk to your child's current school counselor throughout the process.

schools.nyc.gov/WelcomeCenters

You can also contact a Family Welcome Center or call us at **718-935-2009** to get personalized support. We can help you explore your middle school options, access your MySchools account, and apply.

Your Middle School Program Options

First, learn where your child can apply

Until the week of January 11 | Before the application opens, the public MySchools directory shows all middle schools in the city.

Check any program's eligibility on its MySchools page to see if your child can apply.

District programs	District programs may be open only to students who live or go to school in that district; others may be open only to students in a very specific area, or zone. Your child can apply to programs in their middle school district and in the district where they attend elementary school (if it is different).
Boroughwide programs	Boroughwide programs are open to students who live and/or go to school in the same borough as the school. If, for example, your child lives in Brooklyn, they are eligible to apply to boroughwide programs in Brooklyn.
Citywide programs	Citywide programs are open to all students who live in New York City.

Beginning the week of January 11 | When the application is open and you are logged in to **MySchools.nyc**, your personalized directory will display all of (and only) the options where your child can apply.

Then, learn your child's chances of getting an offer to specific programs

NEW This year, programs that formerly screened applicants will not use students' academic information for admissions. Instead, for all students entering middle school in fall 2021, these programs will make offers using the admissions factors already used by most NYC middle schools, as listed below. Screening is paused because the measures traditionally relied on for evaluating applicants are not available this year.

Pausing screens increases access to more schools for more students. A key benefit is that inclusive learning environments are proven to encourage the development of critical thinking skills. They are linked to long-term success and lead to higher graduation achievement and better access to social and professional networks for more students. We will engage further with school communities to determine the role of screens in future years.

These admissions factors can help you better know your child's chances for each program.

The number of program choices you add to your child's application and the order in which you place them matter!	You can apply to up to 12 programs. After listing favorite programs, consider learning about and adding additional choices to your application. Applying to more programs will not affect your child's chances of matching to a top choice. There is no better strategy than placing programs in your genuine, true order of preference! Schools will not know if they were your first or twelfth choice. You will always be considered for your first-choice program first. If you don't get an offer to your first choice, then you will be considered for your second-choice program as if it were your first choice, and so on.
The number of available seats at different programs varies.	Each program admits both general education students (GE) and students with disabilities (SWD); for admissions purposes, programs set seats aside for students in each designation. Your application will indicate GE or SWD; this is not something you choose. A program's number of applicants per seat (which you can view in MySchools) helps show how in-demand, or popular, a program was last year. Higher-demand programs have many more applicants than available seats, which means a lower chance of getting an offer. If you apply to high-demand programs, also apply to programs that have fewer applicants per seat.
Some programs use admissions priorities, meaning they admit specific groups of applicants (such as students who live in the zone) before others.	If there are more applicants to a program than seats available, applicants are admitted in priority-group order: all applicants in priority group 1 are considered for offers before any applicants in priority group 2, and so on. Some schools (and all District 15 middle schools) use a Diversity in Admissions priority: for a portion of seats, they prioritize specific groups of applicants, such as students from low-income families, who live in temporary housing, or who are English Language Learners. Find any program's priority groups on its MySchools page. Apply to some programs where your child is in the first priority group. Whether you list a program first or last, your child will keep the same priority to attend it.
Each applicant is assigned a random number by a computer, as in a lottery.	When there are more applicants than seats, these random numbers are used (within priority groups) to determine who gets offers to a program first, and in what order. To see how students get offers using priority groups and random selection, watch the animation at schools.nyc.gov/AdmissionsEnrollment .