

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(FAQ)



FROM MAINE PARENTS AND CARE GIVERS ABOUT TRANSITION TO PUBLIC KINDERGARTEN

Q: How can I find out which public school my child will attend?

A: Contact your local town office, superintendent's office, or other town government offices. The State of Maine also provides a school find resource, [Maine School Locator](#).

Q: When does kindergarten enrollment and screening take place?

A: These dates can vary by school district and school. Many schools schedule kindergarten screening in the spring prior to the child transitioning to school. Others will complete screenings within the first few weeks of the start of kindergarten.

Enrollment usually begins in early spring of the year prior to kindergarten entry; many schools list the opening of enrollment in the local paper, on their websites and with community partners around town. Others reach to childcares and preschool providers in the area to obtain parent information and mail enrollment information to the child's home. You should reach out

directly to the school if you have not received this information by early springtime.

Q: What documentation do I need to enroll my child in public school and where can I find it?

A: You will need the following documents to enroll your child in public school in Maine:

- Official birth certificate – this would be from the town, not the hospital provided form
- Proof of residence – utility, rent or other bill, car registration form, or other form in the parent/guardian's name with home address shown (not a P.O. Box)
- Immunization certificate (see question #6)
- Custody or guardianship documents (if applicable)
- Emergency contact form, which may be part of the enrollment packet

Q: What immunizations does my child need so that s/he can be enrolled in public school?

A: By Maine Law, children need to give the school an immunization certificate from their healthcare provider showing the following immunizations: **Diphtheria, Measles, Meningococcal meningitis, Mumps, Pertussis, Poliomyelitis, Tetanus, Rubella, and Varicella**; in most cases your child's pediatrician or doctor's office can fax these to the school with a release signed by a parent or guardian. In some cases, there may be exemptions to the immunization schedule, and it is best to speak directly to your child's school health department.

For more information: [State of Maine School Immunization Rule](#).

Q: Where can I find a typical Kindergarten daily schedule, a calendar for school year dates, and a class supply list?

A: Once you have located the school your child will attend, contact them for these specific things. Each school, and sometimes each class, will have a different schedule, calendar, and supply list. These may be posted on the

school's website and/or mailed or emailed to families ahead of the start of school.

Q: What is my child's bus schedule and/or the pick-up and drop-off routine/schedule?

A: Your child's school may share this information in multiple ways. They may offer details in a welcome to school packet once your child is enrolled. Many schools publish this information in the local paper and on their websites. If you have not received the information or have moved to a new residence and bus route, you can call the school office directly.

Q: How can I find out who the other adults/school staff are that will be around my child?

A: Many schools will offer a staff directory on their websites. Some will have school staff on hand at an open house or meet the staff family night at school, or similar activity. You can contact the school office directly for more information.

Q: How can I communicate with my child's teacher?

A: Many teachers will share this information with families upon enrollment or the start of the school year. The information may also be listed in a parent/family handbook or on the school's website. Many teachers will communicate via email, send notices and other important papers home, or schedule phone, zoom or in-person meetings at the parent or caregiver's request. Each school, and teacher, may have a different system, so please reach out if they have not shared their preferred method of contact.

Q: How can I connect with school and/or community parent organizations?

A: Many schools will list these events and organizations on their websites or in the parent/family handbook. Families/caregivers can also contact the school directly to ask about these organizations.

Q: How can I find options for before and after school care in my area?

A: While some schools partner with community childcare and after school programs, others do not. You can call your school office or community program directly to ask about partnerships, enrollment, and other information if these programs exist in your community.

[Childcare Choices](#) is a website that connects parents and caregivers with before and aftercare programs in your area, as well as other childcare opportunities.

The Office of Child and Family Services supports options for eligible parents, families and caregivers in affording before and after school childcare costs, as well as childcare costs. For more information and qualification information, visit their website at this link: [Paying for Child Care | Department of Health and Human Services \(maine.gov\)](#)

**IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT ENROLLING OR
TRANSITIONING YOUR CHILD INTO A PUBLIC KINDERGARTEN CLASS,
PLEASE TAKE SOME TIME TO LOOK THROUGH THE RESOURCES ON
OUR WEBSITE OFFERED SPECIFICALLY FOR PARENTS, FAMILIES AND
CAREGIVERS, OR CALL THE MAIN OFFICE AT YOUR LOCAL
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.**

