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Understanding the NYC Turning 5 Process

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Kindergarten Orientation Guide

for Families of Students with Disabilities
Entering Kindergarten in Fall 2025

Applying to Kindergarten

Apply to your Zoned School by January 19th - schools.nyc.gov/find-a-school

- ▶ Apply online, at myschools.nyc
- ▶ Over the phone, by calling 718-935-2009
- ▶ Contact a Family Welcome Center, Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 5 pm and Friday from 8 am to 3 pm

Accept the offer and register

- ▶ myschools.nyc
- ▶ contact the school directly
- ▶ call 718-935-2009

* Charter and Private Schools have a different application process, but do accept students with IEPs

Start of the IEP Process

- ▶ The kindergarten CSE IEP team is similar to the CPSE preschool IEP team
- ▶ A Welcome Packet should have been sent and you should be contacted by the New York City Public Schools IEP team between January–March.
- ▶ You will be getting Prior Written Notices (PWNs) with all information including
 - ▶ Notice of Recommendation for re-evaluations
 - ▶ Contact information for your CSE IEP team which includes social worker and school psychologist
 - ▶ Request for your consent to conduct assessments of your child.

IEP Testing

- ▶ All students will be observed at Tiegerman and teachers will be interviewed by the CSE team.
- ▶ The CSE team will review your child's file, including assessments and progress reports from Tiegerman.
- ▶ If needed, they will attempt to do new assessments for your children, with your consent.
- ▶ You will receive communication in the mail or via email informing you if new assessments are needed and asking for a signed consent.
- ▶ New assessments will take place at Tiegerman.

Kindergarten IEP Meeting

- ▶ You will receive a letter with the date, time, and location of your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting at least five days before the meeting.
- ▶ The meeting will take place either at the zoned school or at Tiegerman. You can participate in person, by phone or sometimes through Microsoft Teams
- ▶ Participants in the IEP meeting are:
 - ▶ School Psychologist and/or Social worker
 - ▶ Special Education Teacher
 - ▶ Parent(s) / Legal Guardian
 - ▶ Anyone you want to include (advocate, relative who knows the student, etc.)

Kindergarten IEP Meeting (cont.)

At the meeting, reports will be discussed and the team will determine whether your child will:

- ▶ Be declassified (no IEP will be written)
- ▶ Have an IEP or Individualized Education Services Plan (IESP) developed
- ▶ IEP will include
 - ▶ Class size / Special Education services
 - ▶ Related services
 - ▶ Classification

IEP Class Sizes

- ▶ General Education with Related Services
- ▶ General Education with SETTS (Special Education Teacher Support Services)
- ▶ Integrated Co-teaching Class
- ▶ 12:1:1 class
- ▶ District 75 (multiple sizes)

IEP Related Services

- ▶ Speech Therapy
- ▶ Occupational Therapy
- ▶ Physical Therapy
- ▶ Extras such as
 - ▶ Assistive Technology Devices & Services
 - ▶ Adapted Physical Education
 - ▶ 1:1 Health or Behavior Paraprofessional

IEP Classifications

Disability Classification	Description
Autism	A developmental disability, mainly affecting a child's social and communication skills. It can also impact behavior and covers a wide range of symptoms.
Deafness	A student with a hearing impairment is unable to hear most or all sounds even with a hearing aid.
Deaf-Blindness	A student with both severe hearing and vision loss. Communication and other developmental and educational needs are so unique that programs for students with deafness or with blindness cannot meet their needs.
Emotional Disturbance	A student who exhibits one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a degree that adversely affects the student's educational performance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">· An inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors· An inability to build or maintain satisfactory relationships with peers and teachers· Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances· A generally pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression· A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems
Hearing Impairment	A student with a hearing loss not covered by the definition of deafness. This type of hearing loss can change over time.
Intellectual Disability	A student with significantly below average intellectual ability and adaptive (life) skills. A student may also have poor communication, self-care and social skills.
Learning Disability	This is an umbrella term that covers learning challenges that impact a student's ability to read, write, listen, speak, reason or do math.
Multiple Disabilities	A student with more than one condition that creates educational needs that cannot be met in a program designed for any one disability.
Orthopedic Impairment	An orthopedic impairment means that a student lacks function or ability in their body; for example, cerebral palsy.
Other Health Impairment	This is an umbrella term that covers conditions that limit a student's strength, energy, or alertness. One example is ADHD which impacts attention
Speech or Language Impairment	A student with a communication disorder, such as stuttering, impaired articulation, a language impairment or a voice impairment that makes it hard for a student to understand words or express themselves.
Traumatic Brain Injury	A student with an injury to the brain caused by an accident or some kind of physical force.
Visual Impairment	A student whose eyesight impacts their educational performance. Any vision problem that cannot be corrected by eyewear qualifies, including partial sight and blindness.

Most common
classifications



Final Notes

- ▶ If families are not in agreement, they can state and request an impartial hearing or another IEP meeting
- ▶ Bussing is only given if there is a physical need and it's added to the IEP
- ▶ If parents are sending to a private or charter school, an IESP is created
- ▶ New IEP will be emailed or mailed to you

- ▶ VERY IMPORTANT

Public Schools are generally closed in the summer, it is nearly impossible to reach any staff members.

It is imperative that you reach out with any questions or concerns before June 2025.

Important Websites

Important New York City Public Schools Websites and Contacts

Below is a listing of New York City Public Schools web pages and other contact information that you may find useful.

New York City Public Schools

Website: www.schools.nyc.gov

Kindergarten Admissions Process

Website: www.schools.nyc.gov/Kindergarten

Email: ESenrollment@schools.nyc.gov

Phone: 718-935-2009

Subscribe for updates: www.schools.nyc.gov/subscribe

Search for schools: www.schools.nyc.gov/find-a-school

Special Education

Website: www.schools.nyc.gov/specialeducation

Email: specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov

Hotline: 718-935-2007

Turning 5 Process

Website: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/special-education/preschool-to-age-21/moving-to-Kindergarten>

Email: Turning5@schools.nyc.gov

District 75

Website: www.schools.nyc.gov/special-education/school-settings/district-75

Email: D75info@schools.nyc.gov

Phone number: 212-802-1500

Specialized Programs

Website: www.schools.nyc.gov/special-education/school-settings/specialized-programs

Email:

- ACES: ACESPrograms@schools.nyc.gov
- ASD NEST/Horizon: ASDprograms@schools.nyc.gov
- Bilingual Special Education: BSEprograms@schools.nyc.gov

Q&A

▶ Any questions?