



## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) 2024-2025**

Thank you for your interest in the Junior Kindergarten program at Birmingham Public Schools. We are asking all interested families please refer to this FAQ document, as information will be updated as needed.

### **What is Junior Kindergarten?**

The program bridges the critical transition between home and school by offering an extra year of learning, emphasizing academic, social, emotional, and physical skill development. We want to ensure students meet the academic standards and benchmarks appropriate to their age while providing meaningful context and real-life applications. BPS teachers are invested in helping cultivate a student's life-long love of learning through these connections.

### **Is Junior Kindergarten a full or half-day program?**

- The program is a full-school day and follows the elementary calendar, including the start and end times. Students are eligible for before and/or after-school care - [Kids Clubs](#).

### **Will Junior Kindergarten students participate in unified arts programs?**

- Yes.

### **Is there flexibility in the enrollment birthdates?**

- To enroll as a kindergarten-eligible student, the child's birthdate must fall between June-Dec. 1. There is no flexibility. State law only allows the registration of students up to Dec. 1, 2019, while BPS selected June 1, 2019 based on comprehensive studies that indicate the ideal enrollment age for students.

### **How do I enroll?**

1. Complete the pre-application form.
2. There will be a random-selection drawing, if the applicant pool exceeds classroom availability. The district will notify all applicants who submitted a pre-application form no later than **Monday, Jan. 8**.
3. Upon acceptance into the program, all enrollees MUST complete the district's standard [2024-2025 application process](#) online with all the required documentation.
4. There is no guarantee for any family applying after Jan. 8 as classroom availability is limited. Those applications will be reviewed and a representative from enrollment services will reach out, if accepted into the cohort.

### **Will there be a waiting list for families?**

- Yes. Families will be informed of where they fall on the waitlist after completing the district's standard 2024-2025 application process.

### **Is attending Kindergarten Round-Up required for enrollment into Junior Kindergarten?**

- No. However, it is highly encouraged that families [attend one of the information sessions](#).

#### **What schools will host the classrooms?**

- **Beverly Elementary, Bingham Farms Elementary, Harlan Elementary, Pierce Elementary, Quarton Elementary** and **West Maple Elementary** will serve as the primary locations for the 2024-2025 cohort. **Greenfield Elementary** and **Pembroke Elementary** will each serve as feeder schools. Please note, primary locations are subject to change based upon the feedback received from the pre-application form.
  - Greenfield will feed into Bingham Farms
  - Pembroke will feed into Harlan

#### **Can I enroll in the class that's closest to my home?**

- Six schools have been identified for Junior Kindergarten. Each school has an assigned feeder school based on the child's home school. Following completion of the district's standard enrollment process, families can request a class different from their assigned home school, if seats are available.

#### **Will there be transportation?**

- Yes.

#### **Are there any tuition requirements for enrollment?**

- Junior Kindergarten is a K-12, state-funded program for in-district students. Non-resident students can pay tuition to attend.
  - For more details on tuition enrollment, please contact our admissions at [enrollment@birmingham.k12.mi.us](mailto:enrollment@birmingham.k12.mi.us) or visit our [website](#).

#### **Who should enroll for Junior Kindergarten?**

- Birth dates are only one factor a family should consider, as all students turning five years old between June 1 and Dec. 1 are eligible. The program is ideal for children that will benefit most from an additional growth year to develop their confidence, social skills, oral language development, motor skills, independence and school readiness.

#### **What is the difference between Kindergarten and Junior Kindergarten?**

- In Junior Kindergarten, students will utilize elements of the kindergarten curriculum and experiences that reinforce social and academic school development. BPS traditional kindergarten programs prepare students for first grade within one year.

#### **How do I know if my child would benefit?**

- The program provides an additional year of academic and social growth. Speaking with your student's preschool teacher or current care provider about their development may be helpful. Please note, students will advance to kindergarten the following academic year.

If you have any additional questions, please contact:

#### **BPS Enrollment Services**

[enrollment@birmingham.k12.mi.us](mailto:enrollment@birmingham.k12.mi.us)

248.396.2750

**\*\*Last updated: Jan 9, 2024\*\***