

Northampton Public Schools
Kindergarten Overview for 5-year-olds starting in Fall 2024

Age of Students	Children must be 5 years old or older by August 31 of the school year.
Residency	Must be a resident of Northampton, Florence or Leeds
Online Information	NPS Kindergarten page is at https://northamptonschools.org/kindergarten-2/
Days/Hours	School Day is 8:00-2:10.
Elementary Schools	<p>Placement in elementary schools is determined by home address street location.*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge Street School, 2 Parsons St, Northampton, MA 01060 • Jackson Street Elementary School, 120 Jackson Street, Northampton, MA 01060 • Leeds Elementary School, 20 Florence St, Leeds, MA 01053 • RK Finn Ryan Road Elementary School, 498 Ryan Road, Florence, MA 01062 <p>*Open Enrollment Program to apply to attend another in-district school outside your zone. Approval based on space availability (limited). Applications (available Feb 1) can be turned in with Kindergarten Registration paperwork.</p>
Curriculum & Assessment	Activities and curriculum are based on children's needs and interests, guided by the district aligned curriculum and EEC Early Learning Standards. Developmentally appropriate assessments given throughout the school year measure how students are growing in key curriculum standards.
School Meals	Free breakfast and lunch are served daily at all schools. Menus are on the website. Federal Free Lunch Program applications are sent home the first day of school. Qualifying students also receive a bus fee waiver if they meet the eligibility for ridership.
Bus Transportation	Available for students attending their zoned school who live 1.5 miles or more away; fees apply, waiver available for qualifying low-income students. Free for K-6 if over 2 miles away. Annual registration required. Applications are available mid-June for the fall, and are mailed to all incoming Kindergarten students and all children enrolled the prior year.
INFO NIGHT Nov 30, 5:30-6:30 On Zoom <i>Slides/Video posted</i>	For Parents/Guardians: Kindergarten Information night held on Zoom is a slide overview of our program presented by our 4 elementary principals and early childhood staff. Learn about: schools, hours, curriculum, daily routines, opportunities for family engagement, lunch and transportation, orientation, and more. Sign up at: https://TinyURL.com/NPS-KInfoDec6
INFORMATION SESSION & TOURS Jan 17, 5:15-6:30	For Families: All four elementary schools hold their Kindergarten Information Session and Tours on the same day. Parents/guardians only! Learn about your school, see and explore kindergarten classrooms, and talk with school principals.
K OBSERVATIONS Jan 25 & 31, Feb 6 8:50-10:00	For Parents/Guardians: All four elementary schools hold Kindergarten Observation Days on the same dates. Parents/guardians sign up for 1-hour tours to observe classrooms in action during school hours. Call your school to pre-register; tours are limited to 10 adults each.
SCREENING 4 & 5 Year Olds May-July	Incoming kindergarten students are screened by our Kindergarten teachers and staff to assess a young child's overall developmental skills. Your child will be asked to play some games, draw, and build with blocks. Parents/guardians sign consent to screen forms.
Kindergarten REGISTRATION Saturday @ JFK February 3, 2024 9:00-12:00	All students must be registered in the Northampton Public Schools District to attend. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Registration Day: Sat, Feb 3, JFK Middle School, 100 Bridge Rd, Florence. • In January, get ready: 1) Download & fill out the K Registration forms. 2) Gather the required documents. Forms & list available now on the NPS Kindergarten Webpage. Info? Contact Registrar Jennifer Towler (413-587-1328) or jtowler@northampton-k12.us
AUGUST PLAYDATES Wed 8/7, Thurs 8/15, Wed 8/21, Tues 8/27	For Families: During August, weekly playground playdates from 5:00-6:00 at each elementary school help Kindergarten families meet and play and get to know their school playground. Details are mailed to registered students. Last playdate includes an optional school tour.