



Bellevue  
School District

# Welcome to Kindergarten

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2023-2024  
School Year





# Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year

Visit <https://bsd405.org/schools/enrollment/> to learn

- Which documents are accepted to establish residency
- For links to the enrollment packet and instructions about immunization requirements
- For a link to the secure enrollment portal
- You will need to provide a copy of your student's birth certificate or passport to verify age
- If your student has an IEP, IHP or 504 plan, please upload a copy

Please note, enrollment is no longer conducted at schools, instead, all documents needed to enroll are uploaded to our secure portal.

Documents are also available in Spanish and Simplified Chinese





# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) – Enrollment for the 2023-24 school year

## Should I enroll now or wait?

- Enrolling early helps BSD ensure we have right amount of staff for all our students unless you have applied to a choice school/program or through open transfer - then please wait until you hear if you have been accepted and receive instructions on how to enroll.

## My child attended kindergarten at a private school. Can they go right to first grade?

- Absolutely!...unless your child will not be 5 by August 31, 2023. If your child turns 5 after August 31 but before October 31, if the preschool your child attended is on the list of Washington State Board of Education [approved private schools list](#) you must provide the private school with a copy of the [BSD Certification of qualified kindergarten attendance](#) and submit it with your enrollment documents. Your student may be evaluated for 30 days to determine if this is the best fit for the student.

## My child completed kindergarten in another country. Can they enroll in 1<sup>st</sup> grade?

- As long as your child meets the state age requirement, 6 by August 31, 2023, they may enroll in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. If they are younger than that, they will need to enroll in kindergarten. But, do have a conversation with the principal to see if a 30 day evaluation is needed.

## Can my child enroll even if they don't meet the age cutoff? My child's birthday is after August 31, can my child start kindergarten?

- Washington State Law requires a student be 5 by August 31 of the year they start kindergarten. [Early entrance to kindergarten](#) assessments may be available if your student turns 5 after August 31 and before October 31. Please review [procedure 3110.1P](#)

Please review the [Exceptions to Entrance Requirements](#) webpage for additional information.

# FAQ - Enrollment

**I already gave my address verification to the ELP last year do I need to provide this again?**

- No. Early Learning Programs has collected all the required documents for enrollment purposes for students who were receiving Special Education services through Early Learning.

**My student is already in preschool, can they automatically continue at the same school?**

- No, unless you have been approved by the District to attend a different school, your student must attend your attendance area school.

**Can we select any school we want to go to? Or can I go to a school that is not my attendance area school?**

- Only those who have applied for and received permission from the District, may attend schools other than the school associated to their address.

**If we don't live in the District, how can we go to school in Bellevue?**

- We would love to welcome your student, however some of our schools do not have the capacity to accept nonresident students. Please visit <https://bsd405.org/departments/student-placement/inter-district-transfer/> for more information

# FAQ –Continued....

## **I can't find my immunization status and/or can I enroll if my student does not have all of their immunizations?**

- Yes, they will have time to submit final immunization records. Starting in September 2020, Washington State law required that all students provide a medically verified immunization form.

## **I can't find my child's birth certificate.**

- All students enrolling in kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grade must show proof of age as they must be 5 for kindergarten or 6 for 1<sup>st</sup> grade by August 31 of the year they start. If you do not have a birth certificate, a passport may be used. [Click here for more options](#). Enrollment can continue but the proof of age must be provided before student starts school.

## **I do not have internet access or I need help completing the enrollment forms, what do I do?**

- We are working on a solution for this. For now, contact Student Placement at [studentplacement@bsd405.org](mailto:studentplacement@bsd405.org) or at 425-456-4200.

## **I don't have all the documents for proof of residency. What should I do?**




- For residency, we require a copy of your lease agreement signed by both parties and proof of payment as listed on the lease. The address on all documents needs to match the address you are using to enroll. If you own your home, please provide a copy of your homeowners insurance declaration policy.

Please follow the instructions at <https://bsd405.org/schools/enrollment/>

If you have questions, please contact [studentplacement@bsd405.org](mailto:studentplacement@bsd405.org)

# Free Full-Day Kindergarten

- *We offer free full-day kindergarten program in every elementary school. Kindergartners attend school on the same schedule as those in grades 1-5. Day includes.....*

	6 hours, 25 minutes <i>(4 hours, 5 minutes on Wednesday)</i>
	Science, social studies and additional experiences in art, music or PE are added to the core curriculum of reading, writing and mathematics.
	Transportation is provided to students on an established bus route.

- Half-day kindergarten is available upon request. Please work with your school to arrange for half-day kindergarten. Mid-day transportation is not available. On average, three or fewer students elect this option district-wide each year. Students need to attend their attendance area school; half-day kindergarten is not available in our choice schools and programs. The school day will be from the start of the day until lunch; your student will miss out on all learning in the afternoon.
- *For more information, please visit: <https://bsd405.org/schools/kindergarten/>*

# School Options



## **All School Options:**

- Full day kindergarten, fully funded
- Visit <https://bsd405.org/schools/enrollment/> to go through the enrollment process
- Early Release Wednesdays

## **Attendance Area/Neighborhood Schools:**

- 14 attendance area/neighborhood schools
- Find Your School: <https://bsd405.org/schools/find-your-school/>
- Early and Late Start Schools

## **Open Transfer:**

- **The time each year** when families may request to attend a school other than their neighborhood school. If selected through Open Transfer, your student will attend the new school beginning the first day of school in the next school year.
- Online applications will be available the winter before your student starts kindergarten and all students will be placed in a lottery with notification in late spring.
- Please visit the District's [Open Transfer page](#) for more information.

# Choice School/Program Options



Entry into these programs is through application and lottery, the winter before your student begins kindergarten.

- [Arabic Heritage Language Program](#) – Ardmore ES
  - [Mandarin Dual Language Program](#) – Jing Mei ES
  - [Spanish Immersion \(ISA\)](#) – Puesta del Sol ES
  - [Spanish Dual Language Program](#) – This program is available at Lake Hills, Sherwood Forest and Stevenson Elementary Schools
  - Please visit our Apply to Choice Schools and Programs page for more information.
- 
- Students who wish to enter after kindergarten will be admitted as there is room and will be assessed to ensure their language skills are at grade level.
  - If you would like to add your 1st grade or older student to a Choice School/Program waitlist, visit our [Apply to Choice Schools and Programs page](#).
  - Please see our Frequently Asked Questions page for more information.



Ardmore



Lake Hills



Jing Mei



Puesta del Sol



Sherwood Forest



Stevenson



# Areas of Child Development

## Developmental Needs of Children

- Social:
  - Interaction with adults & peers
  - Problem solving
- Emotional:
  - Recognize and name feelings
  - Recognize and acknowledge other's feelings
  - Comfortably separate from parents
- Physical:
  - Fine motor (draw, color, write, cut)
  - Gross motor (jump, run, bounce, catch)
- Intellectual:
  - Literacy (letters, writes name)
  - Math (numbers, shapes, patterns)
  - Science (creativity, exploration, persistence)



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In September & October teachers conduct observational assessments of students in the 6 domains of readiness:

- Social-Emotional
- Physical
- Language
- Cognitive
- Literacy
- Mathematics

# Kindergarten Readiness Skills and Concepts



## Language and Literacy

- Names letters, numbers 1-20 and colors
- Identifies most letters in alphabet
- Makes many letter sounds
- Enjoys being read to and/or reading books
- Can print letters
- Recognizes own name in print
- Hears and makes rhymes
- Talks about a variety of topics
- Participates in conversations
- Tell a simple story in any language
- Speaks clearly so other people can understand their words

***Note:** Kids are on a continuum of development and do not show 100% proficiency in all areas. All students have strengths and areas to encourage development.*

## Math and Science

- Counts number of items in a group
- Recognizes patterns in colors, shapes, etc.
- Uses math vocabulary such as some, few, all, many, etc. to describe amounts
- Recognize numbers 1-20
- Curious about new things or ideas
- Create solutions to try to solve a problem
- Sorts objects by more than one feature
- Makes observations about environment (ie. leaves on a walk outside, animals in a park, etc.)



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# Kindergarten Readiness Skills and Concepts



## Motor Skills

- Moves from one place to another using different types of movement.
- Holds pencils and crayons to draw and/or write
- Uses kid size scissors to cut on lines or make basic shapes

## Self-Care & Well-Being

- Goes to the bathroom independently
- Washes hands after bathroom use
- Puts on coat and shoes
- Eats and drinks independently
- Uses tissue/covers mouth when coughing

***Note:** Kids are on a continuum of development and do not show 100% proficiency in all areas. All students have strengths and areas to encourage development.*

## Social-Emotional Skills

- Plays well with other children
- Says a child they play with is their friend
- Shares with others and takes turns
- Communicates needs and requests for help
- Offers ideas to resolve conflict
- Identifies feelings in self and others (empathy)



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# How can I help my child prepare for Kindergarten?

## Language, Literacy & Play

- Read to and your child every day in home language and/or English.
- Encourage use of scissors, beads, playdough and small building blocks like Legos. These activities help to develop hand muscles for holding pencils/crayons to write and draw.
- Teach your child their full name and parent/guardian's names.
- Use everyday situations to practice taking turns and sharing.
- Help your child learn skills to calm themselves (like taking deep breaths or counting to 10) if they are upset. Help them learn to use words to solve problems with others.

## Cultivate Positivity & Problem-Solving Skills

- Answer questions and talk about your child's feelings about going to Kindergarten.
- Encourage your child to make new friends and meet new people.
- Encourage your child learn every day by positively participating, making good decisions and solving problems kindly.
- Help your child to think of solutions if they have a problem or talk about what they could do in a situation that comes up unexpectedly.



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# How can I help my child prepare for Kindergarten?

## Be Ready for the School Day

- Help your child to have a good day by keeping a regular schedule. Ensure they are getting enough sleep and plenty of exercise (spend time outdoors every day).
- Check your child's backpack after school for notes, completed student work and library books.
- Encourage daily reading and math skills in home language and/or English.

## Get to Know Your School

- Take your child to the school they will be attending for orientation, welcome events or just to play on the playground.
- Visit the building with your child (before the 1st day if possible) to find important places together so you will both know what to expect.
- Take a walk to the bus stop before the 1st day so your child gets familiar with the routine.



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# Child Find



## When should a child be referred to Child Find?

- When birth complications or a medical disorder interferes with development and/or learning
- When a child seems to have difficulty hearing or seeing
- When you or others outside the family don't understand a child's speech
- When a child appears to be learning more slowly than other children their age
- When a child appears to have social emotional difficulties that affect their ability to learn
- When a child has motor difficulties (moving, jumping, using their hands, etc.) that interferes with their ability to keep with other children

## Preschool Program

 **Ages 3 to 5**

SPECIAL EDUCATION
Special Education Family Liaison
<b>Child Find</b>
Programs & Services

The Child Find team provides a free developmental screening and/or special education evaluation for all children (ages 3 to 5) suspected of having a developmental delay or disability.

The purpose of the screening is to identify any developmental delays, such as adaptive, cognitive, communication, motor or social/emotion delays that may potentially affect a child's functional or pre-academic performance.

Upon completion of the screening, the Child Find team will explain the results and determine if a special education evaluation is needed.

Eligible preschool students are entitled to individualized, quality early intervention special education services in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B.

*For preschool screenings, evaluations, or questions call (425) 456-4149.*

Preschool Child Find Intake Form

[English \(PDF\)](#) [Español \(PDF\)](#)

**Note:** Kids are on a continuum of development and do not show 100% proficiency in all areas. All students have strengths and areas to encourage development.



A day in kindergarten!



# The Kindergarten Day

## Instruction Includes

- **Literacy:** Reading & Writing
- **Math:** Counting, adding 1-10, shapes, categorizing
- **Social Studies:** communities & helpers
- **Social Emotional Learning:** feelings & regulation
- **Science:** Earth, Physical, Life & Engineering
- **Specialists:** Art, Music, PE & Library

## Sample Schedule

### Daily Schedule

9-9:20 – Opening Circle

9:20-10:50 – Literacy

10:50-11-Snack

11-11:40 – Specialist

11:40-12:30 – Lunch & Recess

12:30-1:30 – Math

1:30-1:50 – Recess

1:50-2:40 – Science/SS

2:40-3:10 – Small Groups & Choice

3:10 -3:20 – Packing up

3:30-3:35 – Closing & Appreciation Circle



# Curriculum & Homework



Detailed information can be located here:

## [Elementary Curriculum](#)

- Social Emotional Learning
- Literacy
- Social Studies
- Math
- Science
- Specialists: Library, Art, Music and P.E

**Note:** We are developing a computer science pathway for all students. For more information, please visit: [K-12 Computer Science](#)



## **NO** Homework Assigned in Kindergarten:

- Family Activities Calendar provided by Teacher
- Invited to read every night with child(ren)
- Engage in Language Activities

# School Staff & Support Beyond the Classroom



**Nurses:** Provide resources for students and families, conduct vision and hearing screenings,

- [Individual Health Plans](#) (IHPs): Focus on medical issues that do not affect learning such as diabetes, seizures and severe allergies. Please communicate with your School Nurse to let them know about any health concerns that would impact your child's learning or safety at school.
- [Required Health Forms](#)

**Counselors:** Counselors are an integral part of students' daily educational environment and are partners in student achievement.

- [Provide Academic, Social, Person, and Support Services](#)
- [Section 504s](#): provides students with disabilities equal access to educational programs, services, and activities.

**Multilingual Learners Facilitators:** Provide inclusion supports for Emerging and Progressing MLLs.

- For more information, see [Elementary School Services](#).
- All Emerging, Progressing and Proficient MLLs are served by ELL-endorsed teachers and facilitators in their home schools.

**Special Education and Resource Teachers:** Facilitate programs and services are available to all students who meet state eligibility criteria for special education services and are being served on an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

- For more information, see [Special Education Programs & Services](#).
- [Individual Education Program \(IEP\)](#): is a written plan for a child with a disability that includes specific information about areas needing additional or special support, and the services that will be provided

# FAQ – Class and School



## Can my child be class with their friend?

- Class assignment is determined in August. Parents are not able to request a specific teacher. Schools will notify families of their class assignment prior to the start of school. Students will make many more friends in their class.

## Is there a dress code or uniform?

- BSD does not have school uniforms. [BSD Policy 3224](#) outlines student dress code and all schools align with this policy.

## How do I join PTSA?

- Information will be provided by school PTSA. You can also check your [school's website](#).

## Lunch and Recess times? Is recess inside if it rains?

- Lunch is 25 minutes and 2 recesses totaling 40 min.
- Students should dress for seasonal weather, including a raincoat as recess is generally outside.

## How many students in a class?

- This varies based on enrollment. Typically the, average class size in kindergarten is 22 students.

# FAQ – Class and School



Can I tour the classroom and watch lesson?

- We cannot provide tours/observations of lessons as this would be distracting for students. Schools will share information in August about welcome sessions and how to set up WaKIDS Family Meetings prior to the first day of school.

Can I stay with my child the first day/week of school?

- No. This would be very distracting for students. Students quickly thrive and become independent in their classroom settings.

How are students supported?

- Students are all supported with nurturing relationships and instruction to meet their needs.
- Parents of BSD kindergarteners do not need to apply for [Advanced Learning in Kindergarten](#). This process take place automatically within the classroom.

I don't speak English. How will I communicate with my child's teacher?

- BSD has translation services to support on-going communication between families and school staff.

What do I do if my child has a bathroom accident at school?

- We know this may happen and it's ok. So, it is a good idea for your student to have a change of clothes in their backpack or cubby at school for bathroom emergencies or mud puddles! 😊



# Family and School Partnership

- Value Communication
- Share commitment to your child's success
- Invitations to be involved:
  - **Attend Beginning of Year Meeting with Teacher** – Information will come from your school.
  - Join PTSA – check with your school
  - Volunteer in Classes – [Check BSD Requirements](#)

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# First Day & Family Connections Meetings



## Personal Meeting with the Classroom Teacher:

- You and Kindergartner will be invited before school starts for a meeting in late August or early September.
- This is an opportunity for the teacher to learn about students and families.
- Parent invited to share important information to support student transition to kindergarten.
- You will receive communication from your school and/or teacher for the meeting either in person or digital/phone.



# Family Connections Centers



≡ FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Family Connections Centers
Homeless and Foster Care Services
Community Partners
Immigrant, Undocumented Students, and ICE Enforcement Resources

**For More Information Please See:** [Family Connection Centers](#)

## Affirming and Supporting All Families and Students

BSD Family Connections Centers are part of our welcoming school community focused on affirming and supporting all families and students. Located in elementary and secondary schools and staffed by Family Engagement Specialists, their mission is to contribute to student achievement by connecting families with district and community support services, providing them with educational opportunities to better navigate the school system and helping them become engaged in the education of their children.

## Who We Serve

Family Connections Centers serve thousands of Bellevue families each year. While our locations are school-based, all BSD families are welcome to walk into any center throughout the district for support. We believe that the support and resources provided by our centers and specialists can benefit all BSD students and their families. We invite you to stop by a center near you. Family Connections Centers are open during school hours and when schools are in session.

# Nutrition Services

## [Nutrition Services](#)

## [Webpage](#)

### Quick Facts

- Students eat lunch in the cafeteria.
- Students can bring their own lunch or purchase school lunch.
- Lunch is supervised by school staff.

### Meal Prices

Elementary: Breakfast \$2.25 and Lunch \$3.75

Middle School: Breakfast \$2.50 and Lunch \$4.00

High School: Breakfast \$2.50 and Lunch \$4.00

\*Prices are subject to change

Meals are free for all students at Lake Hills, Sherwood Forest and Stevenson elementary schools.

[Application for Free & Reduced Price Meals](#)



### **Breakfast served in cafeteria at:**

*Ardmore, Clyde Hill, Enatai,  
Lake Hills, Phantom Lake,  
Sherwood Forest & Stevenson*

\*locations subject to change

**Lunch served at all schools in  
the cafeteria.**

[Setting up Online Payment for Meals](#)





# Snack Time

- Daily time is built into schedule for students to have a snack time and is in the classroom.
- Schools all follow federal, state and district guidelines for practices.
- If your student has an allergy, please be sure to notify the school to ensure staff know and can support your child appropriately.
- Additional information will come from your school and teacher regarding time, suggestions, classroom allergies, etc.



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# Student Drop-off & Pick-up

- Each elementary school will provide the process and procedure for drop-off and pick up areas.
- Please pull forward in drop-off and pick-up zones and drive slowly.
- There are designated bus zones. Cars are not permitted in the bus zones for student and staff safety.
- All drop-off and pick up areas are supervised by staff.



Source: <https://bsd405.org/bennett/>

# Transportation

- We provide free transportation for students who reside within their school attendance area but outside their school's walk boundary. All elementary schools have a one-mile walk path boundary.
- We also provide transportation for some additional programs and choice schools (Advanced Learning, Puesta del Sol, Jing Mei, etc).
- Bus Routes & Times:  
<https://bsd405.org/departments/transportation/bus-routes/>
- First week of school, all kindergarteners must be met by an adult or an older sibling at the bus stop.
- It is the family's responsibility to educate their student to notify the bus driver if the parent is not at the stop.
- There is no transportation available for students who transfer to a different school through the Open Transfer process.

