

Application Factors

Learn about these factors to better know your child's chances of getting an offer to each program that interests them. Then use your findings to build a balanced application—learn more at schools.nyc.gov/MS.

Your Choices

The number of program choices you add to your application and the order in which you place them matter!

- Apply to programs you are interested in your child attending. Students who list multiple choices are much more likely to receive an offer from their application. There is no limit to how many programs you may list.
- List programs in your true order of preference. Schools will not know if they were your first or last choice. Your child will always be considered for their first-choice program first; if they don't get an offer there, they be considered for their second-choice program as if it were their first choice, and so on.
- A strong middle school application includes:
 - programs in the district(s) where your child lives or goes to school. ○ some programs with an average level of demand (1-2 applicants per seat)

Each Program's Seat

Availability The number of available seats at different programs varies.

- For admissions purposes only, all programs admit students in two **seat groups**: general education students (GE) and students with disabilities (SWD). Your child's application will indicate GE or SWD.
- A program's number of **applicants per seat** (shown in MySchools) helps show how in-demand a program tends to be. Be sure to list a mix of high-demand and lower-demand programs. Learn more at schools.nyc.gov/MS.

Each Program's Priority Groups

Some programs use admissions priorities, meaning they admit specific groups of applicants before others.

- If there are more applicants to a program than seats available, the program admits applicants in priority-group order: all applicants in priority group 1 are considered for offers before any applicants in priority group 2, and so on. • Find any program's **priority groups** on its MySchools page. Log in to see which priority your child is in for each program. Apply to some programs where your child is in priority group 1: whether you list a program first or last, your child will keep the same priority to attend it.

Each Program's Admissions Methods

A program's admissions method tells you how offers are made to its applicants, as well as what you need to do to apply.

- Learn more about these **admissions methods** on schools.nyc.gov/MS. ○ **Open**: Applicants get offers based on random numbers, as in a lottery. Just list these programs on your application.
 - **Zoned Priority**: Applicants who live in the middle school zone are admitted first.
 - **Screened/Language Criteria**: Applicants are placed based on selection criteria.
 - **Audition**: Applicants are evaluated based solely on their auditions, then ranked by score; offers are made in ranked-number order. Academic records are not used to make offers to audition programs.
- If you are listing screened or audition programs on your child's application, consider also including programs that use an open admissions method.





Apply to Middle School

All NYC fifth graders (and sixth graders at schools that end in sixth grade) can apply to middle school this fall.

Important Dates to Remember

- **Wednesday, October 15, 2025**
Middle school application
- opens **Monday, November 3, 2025**
Deadline to register to test for Mark Twain I.S. 239 (21K329) and District 21 Talent Tests
- **Friday, December 12, 2025**
Middle school application closes • **Wednesday, April 15, 2026** Middle school offer release



Office of Student Enrollment

NYC Public Schools

Admissions Checklist

Explore and

Learn F Log in to [MySchools.nyc](https://www.schools.nyc.gov) to explore your child's school options. • Zoned schools prioritize zoned students for seats.

- Most programs have a district priority, which means seats will first be filled by students and residents of the district.

Attend one of our virtual information sessions. Information on how to join will be on our website: schools.nyc.gov/MS. F Use the MySchools Events Calendar

([MySchools.nyc/calendar](https://schools.nyc.gov/calendar)) to learn about schools' events. Be sure to also check schools' websites for more information.

Apply

- F Apply to middle school by **December 12, 2025**
F List programs in your true order of preference, with your favorite choice as #1. There's no limit to how many programs you may list! F Some programs may require an audition/talent test. Learn more at schools.nyc.gov/MSAuditions.

F Submit one of the following ways:

- Online with [MySchools.nyc](https://www.schools.nyc.gov) – Recommended!
- Through your child's current school counselor **Ms. Garland**
- Through a Family Welcome Center. Learn more at schools.nyc.gov/FWC.

Get Your Offer

- F Your child's offer will be available on [MySchools.nyc](https://www.schools.nyc.gov) and through their school counselor.
- F Add your child to additional waitlists (optional). If they get a waitlist offer, you will receive an automated email from MySchools. The program may also contact you directly.