Important Phone Numbers

**Early Childhood Education**
Department (MPS) ........................ (612) 668-2140
Web: http://ece.mpls.k12.mn.us

**Early Childhood Screening** ............ (612) 348-TOTS
(612-348-8687)

**Early Childhood Family Education** .... (612) 668-3927
Email: mpls.ecfe@mpls.k12.mn.us
Web: http://ecfe.mpls.k12.mn.us

**Early Childhood Special Education** ... (612) 668-5100
Web: http://ecse.mpls.k12.mn.us

**Fours Explore** ............................. (612) 668-3890
Email: mpls.kids@mpls.k12.mn.us
Web: http://commed.mpls.k12.mn.us/FoursExplore.html

**HotShot Line** ............................... (612) 668-0870

**Language Support**
Hmong ......................................... (612) 668-1836
Somali .......................................... (612) 668-3704
Spanish ......................................... (612) 668-3702

**Minneapolis Kids** ......................... (612) 668-3890
Email: mpls.kids@mpls.k12.mn.us

**Minneapolis Public Schools** ............. (612) 668-0000
Web: http://mpls.k12.mn.us

**New Families Center** ...................... (612) 668-3700
(For families who speak a language other than English)

**Open Enrollment** ........................... (612) 668-0033

**Minnesota Department of Education** 1-877-766-5485
Web: http://www.education.state.mn.us or (651) 582-8200

**Student Placement Services** ............ (612) 668-1840
Email: sps.department@mpls.k12.mn.us
Web: http://schoolchoice.mpls.k12.mn.us

**Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program** (612) 668-1881

**“The Choice is Yours” Program** .......... (612) 668-1840

**Web links**
- [Early Childhood Education](http://ece.mpls.k12.mn.us)
- [Early Childhood Screening](http://www.education.state.mn.us)
- [Early Childhood Family Education](http://ecfe.mpls.k12.mn.us)
- [Early Childhood Special Education](http://ecse.mpls.k12.mn.us)
- [Fours Explore](http://commed.mpls.k12.mn.us/FoursExplore.html)
- [HotShot Line](#)
- [Language Support](#)
- [Minneapolis Kids](http://mpls.kids@mpls.k12.mn.us)
- [Minneapolis Public Schools](http://mpls.k12.mn.us)
- [New Families Center](http://mpls.kids@mpls.k12.mn.us)
- [Open Enrollment](#)
- [Minnesota Department of Education](http://www.education.state.mn.us)
- [Student Placement Services](http://schoolchoice.mpls.k12.mn.us)
- [Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program](#)
- [“The Choice is Yours” Program](#)
What You’ll Find in this Booklet

Minneapolis Public Schools staff share your eagerness to make your child’s kindergarten experience a positive one, and we believe the key is teamwork. A close partnership between family and school can make a big difference in how well your child does in school. To help with forging a strong partnership, this booklet was prepared to help answer many of your questions about:

Important Phone Numbers ................. page 1
Minneapolis Public Schools Welcomes You to Kindergarten .............. page 3
Getting Ready for Kindergarten .......... page 4
Registration Information ................. page 5
Early Childhood Screening .............. page 6
What Happens in High Five? .............. page 7
What Happens in Kindergarten? .......... page 8
Transitioning to Kindergarten .......... page 9
How to Choose a School ................. page 10
Things to Look for When Visiting a School .......... page 12
Activities to Boost Learning (birth to 2 years old) ........ page 13
Activities to Boost Learning (3 to 5 years old) ........ page 14
Glossary of Terms ......................... page 15
Minnesota State Programs ............... page 17
Immunizations ............................ page 18
Minneapolis Public Schools Welcomes You to Kindergarten

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Kindergarten is an important first stage of elementary school, providing the foundation for success throughout a child’s education. Minneapolis Public Schools’ (MPS) kindergarten programs create a warm and welcoming environment where children at all levels of development will learn and achieve.

In the classroom, children will meet the District’s kindergarten expectations in reading, mathematics and writing, while growing physically, socially and emotionally. Using best practices, kindergarten teachers:

- Help children acquire knowledge and skills in reading and mathematics.
- Involve children in hands-on activities.
- Offer a balance of small group, large group and individual activities.
- Assess children’s progress through teacher observation and looking at student work.
- Help children to interact with other children and adults.
- Develop children’s social skills, including conflict resolution strategies.
- Involve parents in their child’s education.

If any of your questions are not answered in this booklet, please call the MPS Early Childhood Education Department or Student Placement Services. Families who speak a language other than English should contact the New Families Center.

Phone numbers are listed on the inside of the front cover of this booklet.
Getting Ready for Kindergarten

The following tips provide ideas of what you can do to help your child get ready for kindergarten:

- At age 3, call (612) 348-TOTS (612-348-8687) to schedule an early childhood screening; see page 6.

- Consider enrolling your child in a pre-school program such as High Five, Head Start or an Early Childhood Family Education class. For more information, call Student Placement Services.

- The year before kindergarten, attend the MPS School Information Fair, which is typically held in late fall or early winter. For exact dates, call Student Placement Services.

- Visit potential schools of choice.

- Select a school for kindergarten. Mail your school request card before the school choice deadline, which is usually four to six weeks after the School Information Fair is held.

- Gather the following documents for school registration:
  - Record of pre-school screening. Call (612) 348-TOTS or your health care provider for a copy.
  - Copy of birth certificate.
  - Record of up-to-date immunizations (see page 18); contact your health care provider for documentation.

Once your child has been placed at a school, make sure to complete the registration process at the school. This usually happens in the spring. Doing this secures your child’s place in kindergarten as well as on the bus.
Age

Your child must be 5 years old on or before September 1 to enter kindergarten in the fall.

While MPS does not recommend early admissions, some parents may feel their child should start kindergarten earlier than the recommended age. The District’s policy is that if your child will turn 5 years old between September 2 and October 31, your child is eligible for consideration for early admission into kindergarten.

Children must complete an early childhood screening and other assessments before your request for early admission is accepted or sent to the school. Contact Early Childhood Screening to schedule a screening. If you are interested in early admission for kindergarten, please call Student Placement Services for more information on the procedures for early admission.

Minneapolis Public Schools also has quality, pre-kindergarten programs you may want to consider for your child; see page 15 for a program list.

Registration

In order to enter kindergarten, all families must fill out a school request card through Student Placement Services. Once your child has been placed at a school, you must contact the school to finish the registration process. You will need to bring three things to the school office before your child can officially be registered at that school:

1. Birth record.
2. Proof of required shots (immunizations; see page 18). To obtain a copy, contact your health care provider.
3. Early Childhood Screening report (for more information or to schedule a screening, call 612-348-TOTS).

A physical examination is not required, but highly recommended and encouraged. It may alert us to some condition that may affect learning. If your child has any special needs, we will want to plan accordingly.

Birth Records

A birth record is required for registration (if you do not have your child’s birth certificate, contact the county in which the child was born to obtain those records). Documents that are accepted by MPS to verify the date of birth include:

- Birth certificate
- Passport
- Baptismal record
- Immigration card
Early Childhood Screening Ages 3-5*

MPS recommends that children be screened at age 3, but call at any time if you are concerned about your child's growth and development – screening can be done before age 3.

Three Reasons to Screen at Age 3*

1. Screening can assist your child to be ready for school.
2. Any health or developmental concerns can be found earlier and help provided sooner.
3. Because screening is free, it's easy and it's good for your child!

When Your Child Turns 3 Years Old

1. Call 348-TOTS (8687) to set an appointment.
2. Complete the health forms that will be sent to you.
3. Bring your child to the screening appointment, where trained staff will check your child's:
   - Vision and hearing.
   - Growth and development.
   - Immunizations and family history.
4. Bring your child’s birth certificate and immunization records to the screening.
5. Screening is preferred at age 3, but can be done at 4 or 5 years old.

Early Childhood Screening Helps:

1. You find out how your child is doing.
2. Connect you with early childhood programs and services.
3. Answer your parenting questions.

Contact Information

Phone: (612) 348-8687 (612-348-TOTS)
Website: http://health.mpls.k12.mn.us/Early_Childhood_Screening.html

Enrollment Process: Call for an appointment

Fees: Free

*State law requires all children to be screened before entering kindergarten.
What Happens in High Five?

High Five is a program that prepares children for kindergarten by focusing on the whole child.

Teachers support children’s social and emotional development by helping them understand themselves and their abilities. Teachers also help children learn social skills so they can form healthy relationships with other children and adults.

The High Five curriculum is organized around three fundamental elements:

**Community Circle:** Creates a sense of belonging to a community of learners and emphasizes being responsible, listening, talking with others, asking questions and taking turns. Includes Language and Literacy, Math, Science and Social Studies activities.

**Active Learning:** Young children learn best through hands-on experiences with people, objects, events and ideas. Children are encouraged to construct deeper knowledge through independent and small group experiences.

**Review:** Closing meetings gather children to share experiences and ideas, and to reflect on the day’s learning. Often, this is a time for re-reading a story or sharing a second reading aloud.

High Five is a half-day program (2 hours and 45 minutes) offered at many MPS schools. For a complete list of High Five programs, contact Student Placement Services. High Five is a fee-based program with a sliding scale available for qualifying families; nobody will be turned away because of their inability to pay.
What Happens in Kindergarten?

Kindergartners learn best by active, hands-on exploration, testing and discovery. Through their senses, they are ready to expand their world beyond their homes and classrooms to the larger neighborhood or community. These experiences help them grow socially and intellectually. The following core content areas show what kindergarteners experience in their first year at school.

**English Language Arts**
- Hear, say and blend sounds
- Build reading and writing concepts
- Learn and use new words
- Communicate needs, feelings and ideas

**Mathematics**
- Read, write, compare and order whole numbers
- Use multiple counting strategies
- Identify, copy and continue simple patterns
- Sort objects by shape, color or length

**Science**
- Find out about organisms’ basic needs
- Learn about the world by making observations and asking questions

**Social Studies**
- Place and geography: Where in the world?
- Chronology/time in order: When in time?
- Universals of culture: In what ways and why do cultures differ from one another?

**Arts Education**
- Explore materials to discover and play with basic elements of visual art
- Experiment with music and sound using rhythm instruments

**Health**
- Discuss feelings
- Demonstrate proper technique for hand-washing and brushing teeth
- Recognize the categories of the Food Pyramid

**Physical Education**
- Experience the joy of play
- Share equipment, cooperate and show respect to others
- Develop body control and use personal space safely

**World Languages**
- Participate in age-appropriate cultural activities (e.g., songs, stories)
- Recognize and imitate familiar words
- Identify and label familiar items

**Instructional Media and Technology**
- Select appropriate books, check out and care for them
- Examine how pictures, charts and graphs help tell a story or relate facts
- Use appropriate computer applications for certain tasks
Transitioning to Kindergarten

There are many things that you can do to help your child adjust to kindergarten and be prepared for learning every day. Listed below are suggestions on what you can do to be involved in your child’s learning and help him/her do well in school.

Helping Your Child Adjust to Kindergarten

- Visit the school or attend their open house (usually a few weeks before school starts) with your child so that he/she can get familiar with staff and the building.
- Talk about going to kindergarten in positive ways; share your own fun memories of kindergarten.
- Read books about going to kindergarten: Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten, by Ashley Wolff; Lookout Kindergarten, Here I Come, by Nancy Carlson; When You Go to Kindergarten, by James Howie and Betsy Inersheen.
- Put a special picture or a note from you in his/her backpack.
- Review the bus safety rules with your child. Before the first day of school, do a few practice runs to the bus stop to help your child feel more comfortable.

How to Help Your Child do Well in School

- Help the teacher know your child; visit the school and make a point of meeting the teachers and principal.
- Share your child’s pre-school portfolio with the kindergarten teacher so he/she can become better acquainted with your child’s learning progress.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences; talk with the teacher or send a note to school if you have concerns about your child’s learning or if you are pleased with what your child is learning.
- Make sure your child is well-rested and has a set bedtime every night.
- Make sure your child is in school every day and on time unless he/she is sick. Call the school to explain an absence or tardiness.
- Each day, check your child’s backpack and review with your child any special notes that have been sent home from the principal or teachers.
- Put labels with your child’s name on his/her clothing (coats, sweaters, mittens, caps, footwear, etc.). Teach your child to recognize his/her own labels.
- Provide your child with clothing suitable for the weather and active play.
- Notify the school immediately if there are any changes in your address, phone number or workplace. If there are any changes, emergency cards at the school will need to be updated.
How to Choose a School

MPS believes in and supports parent choice. There are a variety of kindergarten school options available. Choosing a school that fits your child’s personality and your family’s needs is an important part of the school choice process.

MPS provides resources and staff to help families understand their options so that they can make the right school choice for their child. MPS’ school choice season takes place in the late fall to early winter of each year.

Contact Student Placement Services for more information on the following resources:

- Minneapolis Public Schools Pre-Kindergarten to Middle Grade Guide
- Annual School Information Fair
- School Open Houses
- Individual school’s Report to the Community and brochures
- MPS School Choice website: http://schoolchoice.mpls.k12.mn.us
- Minnesota Department of Education website: http://www.education.state.mn.us
# How to Choose a School

Refer to the MPS “Pre-Kindergarten to Middle Grade Guide” for a complete list of schools, program descriptions, addresses and telephone numbers.

Choosing a school is a big decision. The points outlined below will help you think about the school you are visiting; look around, listen, ask questions and take notes. Compare what you see with what you want for your child and family. Use one of these forms for each school that you visit; *How to Choose a School* forms can be downloaded at: [http://schoolchoice.mpls.k12.mn.us/how_to_choose.html](http://schoolchoice.mpls.k12.mn.us/how_to_choose.html)

## Directions:
Using a scale of 1 to 3, place a check mark in the box that best represents how important the particular factor is to you. When you add up the points for a grand total, you will be able to compare the rating with different schools and evaluate how they compare.

- **1** = Not Important
- **2** = Somewhat Important
- **3** = Important

## School Name: Meadowlane Elementary School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors to Consider</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>Some Questions to Ask Yourself</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The school building</td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>Large or small? Located near a park, a shopping area; busy or quiet street?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. School location</td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>Close to your home, work or to child care?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Transportation to school</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Walking distance or will need to ride bus? Long or short bus ride?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. After-school activities at the school</td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>After-school child care, community education activities, homework help?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Cultural composition</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Diverse languages and cultures represented?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Reputation</td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>What do you hear about this school from neighbors, friends or the community?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Friends</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Will your child be with school friends from your community?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Parent involvement</td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>Do you feel respect for you as a parent? What are the opportunities for you to be involved?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Academics</td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>What are the test scores results? Are there special programs in science, art, technology, languages? What do the students and teachers do?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Climate: student and teacher interactions</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Are students and adults respectful in classrooms, hallways and lunchroom? Are conflicts handled in a positive way?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Full- day vs. half-day kindergarten</td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>Does the school offer just half-day kindergarten or do they have plenty of full-day kindergarten options?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Add up the number of points under each rating; then add the numbers across for a Grand Total**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**GRAND TOTAL:** 25 points for this school
## Things to Look for When Visiting a School

### Questions to Ask Yourself as You Visit Schools

- Are the teachers genuine and enthusiastic about their school and students?
- Do the children look happy and engaged?
- How does the school learning environment feel to you?
- Is the staff open to answering your questions?
- Did you feel welcome?

- How active are the parent organizations?
- Are the opportunities for parent involvement stated clearly?
- Are the educational goals of the school clearly stated and do they fit with your beliefs?
- Is the school-based discipline policy clearly stated?
- Does the school offer the following: Art/Music Specialists; Gifted & Talented; After-school Activities; Special Education; Availability of before- and after-school child care (e.g., Minneapolis Kids)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Overall Impression of the School</th>
<th>Other Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activities to boost learning for parents with children BIRTH TO 2 YEARS old

For specific ideas and activities on how to develop these skills, search for the Parent Resource booklet at http://schoolchoice.mpls.k12.mn.us or call Student Placement Services for a copy of the booklet.

Here are some fun and easy things that parents and caregivers can do to help their child get ready for kindergarten.

**Language**
- Respond to your child’s sounds and encourage them to make more sounds.
- Talk and sing during daily routines. Describe what your child is doing, seeing and feeling.
- Read colorful picture books.

**Movement**
- Provide plenty of supervised playtime on a blanket or carpet.
- Make sure the environment is safe for exploration. Protect children from sharp edges and keep electrical cords and window blind cords out of reach.

**Social and Emotional Growth**
- Show affection with hugs and kisses.
- Be aware of feelings (both your child’s and yours) and name them out loud.
- Encourage your child’s independence.
- Get your child’s attention by making eye contact.

**Self Help Skills**
- Establish hand washing as part of a daily routine. Sing songs while hand washing:
  
  “This is the way we wash our hands, wash our hands, wash our hands...”

- Talk to your child about what you are doing when you dress and undress them.
- Begin with the toddler helping you undress them. It is easier for children to take off their clothes than to put on their clothes.

- Praise your child as he/she develops a new skill. Help your child experience success.
Activities to boost learning for parents with children 3 TO 5 YEARS old

Here are some fun and easy things that parents and caregivers can do to help their child get ready for kindergarten.

**Language**
- Help your child learn new words every day.
- Encourage your child to speak in complete sentences.
- Ask your child questions about his/her day at pre-school or daycare.

**Reading**
- Read aloud and often to your children.
- Have your child sing or say nursery rhymes or songs.
- Help your child learn the alphabet and point out letters and numbers throughout the day.

**Math**
- Count objects around the house such as toys, shoes, fingers, food items and chairs.
- Ask your child to match and fold socks, match shoes and place them in order from smallest to biggest.
- Play games like puzzles, Legos and board games.

**Writing**
- Encourage your child to scribble, draw or paint.
- Let your child watch you as you write out checks, lists, notes or letters.
- Invite your child to trace letters or numbers with different colored crayons. Encourage them to say the letter or number out loud.
Charter Schools are independent public schools that are sponsored by a school district, university, the state or a non-profit organization. Charter schools operate under a contract with the sponsor.

Community Schools are schools with an attendance area that draws most of its students from the surrounding community. Community schools reflect the interests of the families in the school. Attending a community school makes it easier for families to get involved with their child’s education, allows for shorter bus rides, and makes it easier to develop a sense of pride and community in the neighborhood.

*Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) is a program for families with children ages birth to 5. Through classes, ECFE helps parents provide their child the best possible environment for learning and growth. Sample of classes: New Parent Connection/Infant Massage; Incredible Infants; Early Ones; Toddlers; Terrific Twos; Prime Time for Preschoolers; Book/Topic: Focused Parent Discussions; Daddy & Me; Play & Learn; Adventures in Parenting. A sliding fee scale is available; nobody will be turned away because of their inability to pay.

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) services are offered to children who have a medical diagnosis known to impact their ability to learn or have significant delays in their development. ECSE provides a range of services to meet the particular needs of each child and family including: developmental disability; speech/language disorder; autism spectrum disorder; deaf/hard of hearing; physically or visually impaired; emotional/behavioral disorder; traumatic brain injury; other health disabilities.

*Fours Explore is full-day child care for four-year-olds to prepare them for kindergarten. This program supports student learning through discovery activities that include math, reading, science and art. Contact the Minneapolis Kids office for more information or to register; sites are open 6:30 a.m.–6 p.m. This is a fee-based program that accepts child care subsidies from families who qualify.

*High Five prepares children for kindergarten by focusing on the whole child. High Five teachers prepare activities and lessons that focus on multiple areas of a child’s development such as language and literacy skills; physical activities; personal and social skills; and how to take care of personal needs. Students must meet certain requirements to be eligible for entrance into the program. High Five is offered as a half-day (2 hours and 45 minutes) program. A sliding fee scale is available; nobody will be turned away because of their inability to pay.

Kindergarten is offered both as a full-day (6 hours and 15 minutes) or half-day (2 hours and 45 minutes) program. To enter kindergarten, children must turn 5 on or before September 1. Parents must fill out a school request card through Student Placement Services or

*Pre-kindergarten Program
Glossary of Terms

New Families Center. Cards must be postmarked by the due date (date subject to change; call Student Placement Services for exact date) to be included in the first round of school assignments for the following school year. Parents can still request a school after the due date, but choices may be more limited.

**Magnet Schools** are schools with a distinct, unifying principle or instructional delivery system which draws from a larger attendance area than a community school. Some magnets are organized around a philosophy of teaching, such as Montessori or Open schools; others use a theme to connect subjects, such as the arts, technology, language or the environment.

**Minneapolis Kids** is a year-round MPS program that offers fun, high-quality child care during a variety of times (before and/or after school; before and after High Five and half-day kindergarten; during winter and spring break and on school release days; during summer vacation). Skilled child care staff plan carefully supervised activities, which complement the school experience including a wide variety of activities such as crafts, music, art, computers, sports, cooking, storytelling and drama. This is a fee-based program.

**Open Enrollment** refers to the Minnesota law that allows students to attend a school outside of the school district in which they live (e.g., if you live outside of Minneapolis and want your child to attend an MPS school or if you live in Minneapolis and want your child to attend a public school outside of Minneapolis). See page 17 for more information.

**Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program (TAPPP)** provides high-quality early child care services for the children of MPS high school students. TAPPP provides on-site child care, transportation, parenting education, and support services for adolescent parents and their young children.
Minnesota State Programs

Open Enrollment

State law allows students to attend a school outside of the school district in which they live (e.g., if you live outside of Minneapolis and want your child to attend an MPS school or if you live in Minneapolis and want your child to attend a public school outside of Minneapolis). There are three requirements:

1. There must be space in the school you are requesting.
2. Transportation must be provided by the family unless the family qualifies for “The Choice is Yours” program.
3. You must complete the open enrollment application form. For information, call Student Placement Services.

“The Choice is Yours” Program

Through an expanded choice program called "The Choice is Yours," Minneapolis families who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch qualify for priority placement in certain identified magnet programs in Minneapolis. Space availability varies at each school. Priority is limited to families who submit a School Request Card by the due date (call Student Placement Services for the current deadline).

In addition to the magnet school options in Minneapolis, families may also qualify to apply to attend school in one of ten suburban school districts. Transportation to and from school is provided by the State of Minnesota. Students who live on the north side of Minneapolis (north of I-394) may apply for schools in: Columbia Heights Public Schools, Hopkins School District 270, Robbinsdale Area Schools, St. Anthony-New Brighton Schools, St. Louis Park Public Schools and Wayzata Public Schools. Students who live on the south side of Minneapolis (south of I-394) may apply for schools in: Eden Prairie Public Schools, Edina Public Schools, Richfield Public Schools and St. Louis Park Public Schools.

The open enrollment applications for the suburban options are due in the winter; call Student Placement Services for exact date. You can request an application by calling the Open Enrollment office or by contacting Student Placement Services.

If you have specific questions about the suburban school programs and/or space availability, please call the specific school district or you may also call the Minnesota Department of Education.
**Immunizations**

Are your kids ready for school? Minnesota law requires pre-school, High Five and kindergarten students (see shaded boxes) to get the immunizations in the chart below before they start school. The crayons represent the number of dosages that your child must have for each vaccine. Each table cell is meant to be read separately, so for example a child must have a total of two MMR shots by the time they enter kindergarten, not three shots.

Parents may get a legal exemption from these immunizations for medical reasons or for personal or religious beliefs. Medical exemptions must be signed by a health care provider. Personal/religious objections (conscientious objections) must be signed by a parent/guardian and must be notarized.

For the most up-to-date immunization information, call your doctor, clinic, health plan or the MPS HotShot Line at (612) 668-0870.

### Table: Immunization Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age/Grade</th>
<th>Hep B hepatitis B</th>
<th>DTaP/Td/Tdap diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough)</th>
<th>Polio</th>
<th>MMR measles, mumps, rubella</th>
<th>Hib Haemophilus influenzae type b</th>
<th>Varicella* (chickenpox)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preschool (age 3-5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>At least</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age 7 through 6th grade</td>
<td>At least</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th through 12th grade</td>
<td>At least</td>
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<td>7th grade only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Varicella shots not required if child already had chickenpox disease. A second shot will be required for kindergarten and 7th grade in the fall.

**If a child received a Td at age 7-10 years they do not necessarily need another one at age 11-12. However, they must receive another shot of Td or Tdap 10 years after their last one.

***An alternate two-shot schedule of hepatitis B may also be used for kids from age 11 through 15 years.

*Chart source: Minnesota Department of Health*
Welcome to Kindergarten!

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