

## ADMISSION AND ATTENDANCE AREAS

### Enrolling a Student

FCPS provides free public education to eligible Frederick County students ages 5 through 20. Students are assigned to schools based on the location of their homes. Children who attend a childcare center may attend the school that serves the center unless that school is restricted to out-of-district students due to overcrowding or schools in their first year of operation.

To register a student, call and schedule an appointment with the office of the school your child will attend. If you are unsure which schools serve your neighborhood or childcare center or whether a school is restricted, call the FCPS Facilities Services Division or Student Services Office.

For attendance areas, the enrollment form and other important enrollment information, visit [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org) and click on How to Enroll.

FCPS may obtain discipline and expulsion records when a student transfers from another school system. The Superintendent may deny admission to a student who is currently expelled from another school system, for a period of time equal to the expulsion.

(Note: Maryland law requires that children ages 5 to 16 attend a school program.) ★

### Pre-Kindergarten

FCPS offers pre-kindergarten programs to all students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Bus service is provided to those students eligible for transportation under FCPS Policy 441 who live in the attendance area of schools where the classes are offered (designated by an asterisk on page 56). Parents are responsible for the transportation of students whose walking route is  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile or less or who live outside the attendance area of the school where the classes are held.

To enter the pre-kindergarten program this school year, a child must observe the 4th birthday on or before September 1, 2007. Students are selected first on eligibility for free or reduced-price meals. Additional factors that increase a child's risk of not being successful in school may then be considered. Applications are available at all elementary schools, and registration begins the first day of March parent-teacher conferences. Enrollment is limited. ★

### Kindergarten

All FCPS kindergarten programs are full day, most starting at 9 a.m. and dismissing around 3:30 p.m.

To enter kindergarten in August, a child must observe the 5th birthday on or before September 1, 2007. Children entering first grade must have completed public kindergarten or have been approved for entry by FCPS. Whenever possible, parents are encouraged to register their children well in advance of the first day of school so that schools and teachers are prepared to accommodate enrollment.

Parents who do not wish to enroll a 5-year-old in a kindergarten or other approved program may request a 1-year waiver. At the end of the waiver year, the student will enter kindergarten rather than first grade. For more information, contact the Student Services Office. ★



### Out-of-District Transfers

Parents or guardians who want their child to attend a school outside their assigned attendance area must apply by completing the appropriate form, available at all schools or at the FCPS Student Services Office. Approval criteria are stringent. Application for an out-of-district transfer may be made at any time, although the Student Services Office will not begin processing requests for the next school year until February 1. Families will be notified of the decision by mail.

Out-of-district students must reapply for transfer when they move to the next level of schooling (i.e., from elementary to middle school or middle to high school) within the feeder area where they currently attend or when their originally approved reason for transfer changes.

When a school reaches 100% capacity, it will be restricted from out-of-district transfers. FCPS publishes a list of restricted schools annually on February 1. Out-of-district students currently attending a restricted school may remain at that school without reapplying annually, as long as they have approved applications on file in the Student Services Office and their reason for out-of-district status has not changed. The students' sisters or brothers will be permitted to enroll there as well. Other transfer requests will be denied.

Schools continue under the "restricted" designation as long as they are at 100% capacity or greater. Should their enrollments drop below maximum capacity in the fall, they may re-open to out-of-district requests. ★

### Non-Resident Students

Maryland students must attend school in the county in which they reside. The residence of the student is considered to be the same as the residence of his/her parent, legally appointed guardian or caretaker. Students residing with their parents out of Frederick County or out of state and wishing to attend Frederick County Public Schools are subject to tuition. Students under 18 who establish residency by changing guardianship or custody must present an official court document signed by a judge. ★