



# What's Happening in NYC Public Schools

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## January 2025

This Family Update provides important information about upcoming Community and Citywide Education Council elections; important admissions dates for kindergarten, 3-K, and pre-kindergarten (Pre-K) programs; New York City Public Schools' (NYCPS) Big Apple Awards; and the New York City Schools Account (NYCSA).

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## Community and Citywide Education Council Elections 2025

The 2025 Community and Citywide Education Council Elections are here!

Council members help shape policies and priorities that will affect the education of our students in important ways, including by reviewing educational programs, approving school zoning lines, and making recommendations to improve services to NYCPS students. Participating in these elections, whether as a candidate or a voter, is one of the best ways to make your voice heard as an NYCPS parent, and to have a direct impact on the issues that are affecting your school community.

**Interested in running for a seat?** Beginning **Monday, January 13**, parents can apply to run for the 2025–2027 term until **Sunday, February 16**. Applications are completed via your NYC Schools Account ([schoolsaccount.nyc](https://schoolsaccount.nyc)) and only take 5–10 minutes to complete! Review the Eligibility Checklist, Elections Guide, and FAQ on [schools.nyc.gov/Elections2025](https://schools.nyc.gov/Elections2025) for more information about who can run for a seat on each council.

To complete your application, you'll need to create a New York City Schools Account (NYCSA) in your name; you will also use your NYCSA to vote for the candidates for your district, so it's important to make sure you're prepared by creating your account now.

## Create Your New York City Schools Account (NYCSA) Today

If you don't already have an account, getting started is quick and easy: just visit [schoolsaccount.nyc](https://schoolsaccount.nyc), click "Create New Account," and provide the necessary information. If you do not know your child's Student ID number (OSIS) or their Account Creation Code in order to link them to your account, or if you have any other questions about NYCSA, reach out to your school's parent coordinator for help.

NYCSA isn't just for the elections either; your account will also allow you to view your child's grades, report cards, attendance history, transportation information, and more—plus, it's used to communicate with families if we're experiencing a weather emergency, like a blizzard, about potential school closures or schedule changes.

You can learn more about NYCSA—including more detailed steps on how to create an account—at [schools.nyc.com/NYCSA](https://schools.nyc.com/NYCSA).

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## Important Admissions Dates

The beginning of 2025 includes key admissions dates for our youngest students to enroll in school for fall 2025.

### Kindergarten Application Deadline

If your child was born in 2020, they can attend kindergarten this September. Submit your application by **Friday, January 24, 2025**—you can add kindergarten Dual Language and Gifted and Talented programs directly to your child's application in [MySchools.nyc](https://myschools.nyc).

### 3-K and Pre-K Applications Open

Get ready for your little ones to begin their educational journey—NYCPS 3-K and Pre-K applications open **Wednesday, January 15, 2025**.

- If your child was born in 2022, they can attend 3-K this fall.
- If your child was born in 2021, they can attend Pre-K during the 2025–26 school year.

To learn more about free 3-K and Pre-K education in New York City, how to locate a program near you, and how to apply, visit our website at [schools.nyc.gov/3K](https://schools.nyc.gov/3K) and [schools.nyc.gov/PreK](https://schools.nyc.gov/PreK), and attend one of our elementary admissions virtual events listed at [schools.nyc.gov/ESevents](https://schools.nyc.gov/ESevents).

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## Big Apple Award Nominations

It's time to celebrate New York City's amazing educators with the Big Apple Awards!

Nominating a teacher for the Big Apple Awards is a great way for students, families, teachers, administrators, school employees, and community members to show their appreciation for the great work happening in City classrooms. Please help us recognize and celebrate some of our City's best teachers by nominating your favorite teachers by **January 21, 2025** at [bit.ly/BigAppleNomination](https://bit.ly/BigAppleNomination).

To qualify, nominees must be current, full-time public school teachers in City district schools, charter programs, or early childhood education centers who inspire their students, exemplify great teaching, and improve their school communities. To learn more about the Big Apple Awards and nomination process, and see a list of recent honorees, please visit [schools.nyc.gov/BigAppleAwards](https://schools.nyc.gov/BigAppleAwards).