

## Pre-K Lottery FAQs FY20

When may I have an application?

Our lottery process begins March 1 and goes through March 29. Applications will be available on the WCS website [walkerschools.org](http://walkerschools.org) and at all of our elementary schools and enrollment center beginning March 1st.

How does the lottery work?

We have 3 drawings per school: 1) for in zone students; 2) for out of zone but in Walker Co; 3) for out of Walker Co but in Georgia -- Applying for your "in zone" school increases your chances of being drawn in the lottery.

Are children of employees of Walker County Schools given preference, or do they also go through the lottery?

Children of employees are not given any special preference. They must meet the same requirements (Georgia residence / age) for eligibility, and go through the lottery process like any other applicant. This includes being placed into the appropriate level of the 3 drawings for each school.

My zone is Chattanooga Valley. Do you have a class there?

No. WCS does not have a class at CVE. CVE students are typically served at Flintstone Childcare, which has multiple pre-k classes available. Families will need to contact Flintstone Childcare to get information on their application process. If a family wants to apply for another Walker County pre-k school, they will be in the 2nd drawing for that school, as they will be "out of zone, but in county."

May I apply for more than one school?

No. A child can only go through one school's lottery drawing.

What ages are accepted into WCS Pre-K?

Our classes are designed for 4-year-olds. Eligible birthdates are: Sept 2, 2014 thru Sept 1, 2015 for the upcoming school year (FY20).

What if my child is going to be 5 by Sept 1, and I do not feel he/she is ready for kindergarten?

Children who are 5-years-old by Sept 1 do not qualify for Pre-K in Walker County Schools. Five-year-olds are eligible for kindergarten, and students who register as 5-year-olds will be placed into kindergarten. Parents do have options to consider, however. Some local private daycare centers house the same free high-quality Bright From the Start Pre-K classes, and many of them are set up to accommodate 5-year-olds. Another option is to hold the child out of formal school another year, as children are not required to begin school in The State of Georgia until the age of 6.

Do I need to supply a birth certificate to apply?

No. If a child is drawn in the lottery, a detailed letter describing all necessary documents for registration will be mailed to the address listed on the application. No documents are needed until a child is ready to be registered. However, if you are not sure where your child's birth certificate is, or if you need to apply for a birth certificate, this is the perfect time to do so. If your child is drawn in the lottery, a birth certificate will be required for registration. A "Mother's Copy" of a birth certificate is acceptable.

