

Cambridge Public Schools

The Cambridge public school system's elementary school enrollment policy is designed to achieve a diversity of students in all the elementary schools. Families must therefore indicate at least three choices of schools when registering their children. Children will be accepted at a chosen school provided that the requirement for diversity is met and space is available. Elementary schools serve children from kindergarten through grade 8. Grades 9 - 12 are all in one high school.

As soon as possible after locating housing in Cambridge, families should obtain a school information packet from the Family Resource Center, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, MA. Office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Telephone numbers: (617) 349-6068/6551.

Because several Cambridge school registration periods will have taken place before most foreign families arrive at Harvard, spaces in some grade levels of some schools may already be filled. For questions about school assignments, please call the Student Assignment Office in the Family Resource Center (617-349-6068) . If your first/home language is not English, please call the Center for an appointment so that the language test and registration can be done on the same day. The 2 English immersion programs, one at the Graham and Parks School and one at the Tobin School, are held in 3 grade groups : K-1-2; 3-4-5; 6-7-8. The Amigos School has a two-way Spanish immersion classes for K-8. The King Open has Portuguese immersion classes for K-8.

Requirements for application to the Cambridge public schools:

Age Verification:

A birth certificate or passport.. Children are eligible for pre kindergarten in September of 2008 (beginning of the school year), if they have not turned 5 on or before August 31, prior to entering kindergarten. Children are eligible for one-year kindergarten if they are five years old on or before August 31, 2008. A child is eligible for first grade if he or she is six years of age by August 31, 2008.

Address Verification:

A Certificate of Address form is required for each child. It is included in the school information packet; copies are also available at the Harvard International Office. The form should be signed first by the building manager where you live and then taken to a Notary Public (a person who has been legally authorized to certify a signature) to be signed in his or her presence by the parent. There are several notaries on staff in the HIO.

Immunizations:

The Massachusetts School Immunization Law requires that each child entering school must have an MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) immunization, and immunizations for diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, polio, Hepatitis B and Varicella (or a history of documented chicken pox). For children entering kindergarten, a lead test and a tuberculosis test (within 1 year of entry) are also required. Children entering Grades 7 through 12 must have a second MMR immunization. For further information, consult the website at http://www.cpsd.us/FRC/K_reg.cfm Information about the location of health centers in Cambridge which offer these immunizations is available at the HIO.



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