

November 2023



Dear Aldrich Families with Kindergarten Eligible Children,

At this point during the school year, many families are starting to think ahead about Kindergarten enrollment for the next school year. We know Kindergarten is a new adventure for many families and want to help you prepare as much as we can.

We have pulled together some Kindergarten basics to help get you started:

- For Rochester Public Schools, children are eligible to attend Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 School Year if they turn 5 years old on or before September 1, 2024.
- All students must complete an **Early Childhood Screening** before they start Kindergarten. This screening can be completed as early as 3 years old by calling Northrop at 507.328.4004. If you haven't done this already, we highly recommend completing this now- appointments book up quickly once the Kindergarten booklet is sent out!
- Families with children eligible to attend Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 School Year will receive Kindergarten booklets in the mail from RPS in January/February 2024 with information on registering for Kindergarten. There is helpful information about Kindergarten at RPS on the RPS website now at: <https://www.rochesterschools.org/page/incoming-kindergarten-students>
- Children that register to attend Kindergarten through RPS will attend their neighborhood school, which is determined by their address. Visit this website to determine your neighborhood school based on your address: <https://www.infofinder.com/ifi/?cid=RPS25TZQPEOIT>
- All RPS Elementary Schools plan to host open houses in January/February 2024. More information on these open houses will be included in the Kindergarten booklet you receive in early 2024. There will NOT be a district wide "Kick Off to Kindergarten" event like they have held in recent years.
- RPS also has several "District-Wide Schools" including: Gage (Spanish Immersion), Lincoln K-8, Longfellow 45/15, Montessori at Franklin, RPS Online and Washington Core Knowledge. While all students are eligible to attend District-Wide Schools, students must apply to the District-Wide Schools and names are drawn to determine who will attend these schools. The application process for District-Wide Schools opens mid- November. For more information, visit: <https://www.rochesterschools.org/o/rps/page/district-wide-schools-and-application-process>
- There are some "Exceptions to Attendance" that can be requested through the school district for reasons including: legal, medical, or if the daycare your child attends is districted for a different neighborhood school than your neighborhood school based on your home address. If granted, this could allow your child to attend a school that is NOT their neighborhood school.

Other Private Kindergarten Options in Rochester include (but are not limited to):

- Rochester Catholic Schools: <https://www.rcsmn.org/>
- Rochester Central Lutheran Schools: <https://www.rcls.net/>
- Rochester Arts & Science Academy: <https://www.rasamn.org/>
- Schaeffer Academy: <https://www.schaefferacademy.org/>

Do you have other questions? PLEASE reach out to us- we are here to help!