



REGISTRATION/SCHOOL CHOICE FAQs

Kindergarten Registration will open February 20

Open Enrollment/School Choice will be open March 4 – April 2

Hardship applications will open May 1

Out-of-County registration will open June 3

Q. Who should complete a KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION?

A. Students who will be 5-years-old by September 1st, 2024, regardless if the student is already enrolled in a BDS Pre-k program. Parents / guardians will need to go to home zone school with current photo ID, Two proof of address and student's birth Certificate

Q. Who should complete a SCHOOL CHOICE/OPEN ENROLLMENT application?

A. * Students *in any grade* who do not wish to attend their zoned home school **UNLESS** student is already enrolled under the school choice program.

Q. Who should complete a HARDSHIP application?

A. Hardships *are* a part of the school choice program. Anyone who wishes to participate in school choice, but misses the open enrollment window (March 4 – April 2) can apply for a hardship. These applications are filled on a first-come first-served basis and are based on school capacity. Hardship applications will be available beginning May 3rd and are found in the Parent Portal.

Q. What is my zoned school?

A. Students are zoned according to their home address. This is the address where student resides at least 51% of the time. You can find your school by visiting our website at <https://focus.bayschools.net/focus/find-my-school/> and entering your address.

Q. Where can I find the School Choice/Open Enrollment Application?

A. The School Choice/Open Enrollment Application is in your FOCUS Parent Portal.

Q. What digital device and browser do I need to use to fill out the application?

A. We highly recommend using a laptop/Chromebook or desktop to complete and registration and application process. Please let your school or the School Choice office know if you need access to a device.

Q. What do I do once I am in my FOCUS Parent Portal?

A. Once you are in your portal, select the student that you want to apply for School Choice. (**PLEASE NOTE: school choice application must be completed for each child wishing to go to a school other than zoned .**) Next, select "School Choice Application." Once you are in the application you will see the first section with your name and address info. You can select up to three schools. Once selected you will need to return to the school choice application after the lottery has been run (after April 2nd and before April 22nd) and accept or deny the school you are awarded. If you do not go back in and accept the school, your student will be place back in their zoned school. You will then have to wait a fill out a hardship application when it opens on may 1st