

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services
Spring Mill Field Office
11721 Kemp Mill Road ♦ Silver Spring, Maryland 20902
Phone: 301-592-2040 FAX: 301-649-8155

**Immersion Interest Form Directions
After April 12, 2013
for Elementary Foreign Language Immersion Programs**

STEP 1

Prior to completing an Immersion Interest Form, the student must be enrolled in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). To enroll in MCPS, contact your local neighborhood elementary school. Immersion programs are available to families who live in Montgomery County.

STEP 2

Immersion Interest Form Directions

In blue or black ink, complete the Immersion Interest Form, including Steps 1–6. On the form, indicate all immersion program lotteries in which you would like your child to participate.

STEP 3

Parent Information

Forms must be received by the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS) or postmarked by Friday, April 12, 2013. Your completed interest form may be faxed to 301-649-8155, or mailed or delivered to:

DCCAPS
11721 Kemp Mill Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

Additional Important Information

The Immersion Program Notification Letter

An immersion program notification letter will be mailed to each participant's home in early May 2013. If invited to a program, parents/students will have approximately two weeks to accept the seat.

Questions?

For additional information about the immersion application process and/or each individual immersion program, please visit the website for each school. The information can be accessed at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms and/or call DCCAPS at 301-592-2040.

Deadline: Friday, April 12, 2013

ELEMENTARY IMMERSION INTEREST FORM

School Year 2013–2014
For use after April 12, 2013

Student's Name _____
Address _____
Home Elementary School _____
Current Elementary School (if applicable) _____

MCPS ID (required)

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 Date of Birth ____/____/____
 Gender: Female Male
Next Year's Grade:
 K# 1 2 3 4 5

Step 1: Please check each program lottery in which you would like your child to participate.

Fill in your choice(s)	Language	Elementary School	Eligibility (Must be a Montgomery County resident)
	Chinese	College Gardens	Countywide
	Chinese	Potomac	Local, then countywide
	French	Maryvale	Regional*
	French	Sligo Creek	Regional**
	Spanish	Burnt Mills	Local, then elementary schools that feed into Francis Scott Key Middle School, then countywide
	Spanish	Rock Creek Forest	Countywide
	Spanish	Rolling Terrace	Local, then countywide

* Winston Churchill, Clarksburg, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Col. Zadok Magruder, Richard Montgomery, Northwest, Poolesville, Rockville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley, Sherwood, Watkins Mill, Wheaton, Thomas S. Wootton, and Northeast Consortium—(Residences north of Fairland and Randolph Roads)
 ** Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Montgomery Blair, Albert Einstein, Walter Johnson, John F. Kennedy, Northwood, Walt Whitman, Northeast Consortium—Residences south of Fairland and Randolph Roads)

Step 2: Sibling Link: If applicable, enter the name of the sibling in Grade K–4 who currently attends the immersion program to which this child is applying. Note that siblings of students currently in the immersion program in Grades K–4 have preference to the same immersion program on a space available basis.

Sibling's Name _____ MCPS ID (required)

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 Elementary School _____ Current Grade _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Step 3: If applicable, enter the names of this child's siblings that also are applying to the same immersion program(s) that this child is applying. NOTE: A separate immersion form must be submitted for each child.

Name: _____ MCPS ID (required)

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 Name: _____ MCPS ID (required)

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Step 4: Initial each of the following statements

- _____ For the initial invitation, I understand that I will have two (2) weeks to accept a seat.
- _____ I understand that when I accept a seat at a program, my child's name will be removed from all other immersion program wait lists.
- _____ I understand that transportation varies by program and that I may be responsible for transportation. ▫
- _____ I understand that students entering Grades 2–5 who are invited to a program must pass a language readiness assessment within two weeks of the program invitation. ^
- _____ I have read and understand the Immersion Program Lottery Process Frequently Asked questions (FAQs).

Step 5: Complete the following information clearly:

Print parent/guardian name _____ Home phone _____
 Parent/guardian signature _____ Date: _____ Work phone _____
 Parent/guardian e-mail _____ Cell phone _____

Step 6: Return this form by the deadline, **Friday, April 12, 2013**—to DCCAPS, 11721 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902, or fax it to 301-649-8155. For questions about this form, please call 301-592-2040.

Students who will turn 5 years old after 09/01/13 must be approved for Early Entrance to Kindergarten (EEK) at their local elementary school.

▫ The continuation of transportation for the 2013–2014 school year for regional and countywide immersion programs is pending budget approval.

^ Selection for an immersion program for students entering Grades 2–5 is based on space availability and student readiness. Students entering Grades 2–5 may participate in the lottery process. If invited, the student must pass a language readiness assessment to be in the program for the following school year.

Immersion Programs Lottery Process
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/

1. What immersion programs does Montgomery County Public Schools offer?

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) offers three Spanish, two French, and two Chinese elementary foreign language immersion programs at seven sites in the county. The two French programs and one of the Spanish programs are total immersion. Two of the Spanish programs and both Chinese programs are partial immersion. In total immersion, all core subjects, including reading/language arts, are taught in the target language. In partial immersion, some core subjects are taught in the target language. Some immersion programs are based on geographic location and/or give preference to local school students. For more information, please visit the special programs website above, or call the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS) at 301-592-2040.

2. Who can participate in the immersion lottery process? Can students entering Grades 1–5 participate in the lottery?

Any Montgomery County resident scheduled to enter Grades K–5 in the following school year may participate in the immersion lottery. For students entering kindergarten, approximately 26 or 52 seats are available depending on the program. For students entering Grade 1, seat availability varies year to year. Admission for Grades 2–5 is determined by both language proficiency and available space.¹

3. Are younger siblings of students currently in the immersion program in Grades K–4 guaranteed a seat in that program?²

Younger siblings of students currently in the immersion program in Grades K–4 are given preference for that program on a space-available basis. If more siblings apply than there are spaces available, siblings will be selected via a random lottery.

4. How can I participate in the lottery? Where and when can I get a form?

Entering kindergarten students must be enrolled (for the 2013–2014 school year) at their home elementary school prior to submitting their form. Parents must complete and submit the immersion interest form for each child interested in participating in the lottery. Parents may indicate their interest in multiple immersion programs on one form; however, parents need to investigate whether their home address is within the boundaries for each immersion program they indicate on the form. Immersion interest forms will be available February 1, 2013, at all MCPS elementary schools, DCCAPS, and the website above. The deadline for submitting the form is **April 12, 2013**. Forms must be returned to the DCCAPS office at 11721 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902.

¹ The language proficiency assessment is administered after the student has been invited to the program. Admittance to an immersion program is contingent on the student's passing the language assessment.

² Sibling link is defined as the older sibling currently attends the requested immersion program and will be attending the same immersion program the following school year.

5. When are the open houses and information meetings for each of the programs?

Interested parents/students can attend open houses and/or information meetings hosted by the local school program from October 2012–April 2013. Please contact the school or visit the individual school website for dates.

6. Is transportation to these programs provided?

MCPS provides transportation from central stops for elementary school language immersion students from the areas that the programs serve. Stops may be several miles from the student's home. Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to and from central stops. Bus trips are usually significantly longer than local school transportation and vary by program or location. It is important to consider transportation options and responsibilities. The continuation of transportation for the 2013–2014 school year for regional and countywide immersion programs is pending budget approval.

7. What factors are considered in the lottery?

Depending on the program, there are approximately 26 or 52 seats available in the lottery for students entering kindergarten. The available seats in the lottery for students entering Grades 1–5 are those seats vacated by students who withdraw from the program. Factors that may be considered when running each school's lottery include—

- the student's high school cluster (eligibility);
- seats available for Grades 1–5; and
- the student's older siblings in Grades K–4 who currently attend the immersion program to which the child is applying.

All other assignments are made by a random lottery process.

8. When will we be notified of lottery results for the 2013–2014 school year?

All students who participate in the lottery process will receive notification in May 2013. For those not selected for the program, a wait list is maintained. Students are assigned in a random order to the wait list and are invited to the program when a vacancy occurs. In order to be selected from the wait list, the student must be enrolled in MCPS. If a student is invited and accepts the invitation, the student's name will be removed from the other wait lists. The lottery is run in May, and the wait list is valid through the following January.

9. What are the options for immersion students in middle school?

Students may continue in the feeder middle school immersion program, return to the neighborhood school, and/or apply to other special programs.