**CICS Kindergarten Early Admission Process**

**Eligibility:**

- Students must turn 5 years old by December 31st.
- Students birth date falls between the range of dates noted below and verified in the original birth certificate.

| School Year | Student's 5th birthday must fall between these dates |
|---|---|
| 2026-2027 | September 2, 2021 through December 31, 2021 |
| 2027-2028 | September 2, 2022 through December 31, 2022 |
| 2028-2029 | September 2, 2023 through December 31, 2023 |
| 2029-2030 | September 2, 2024 through December 31, 2024 |
| 2030-2031 | September 2, 2025 through December 31, 2025 |

- If a student is 5 years old after December 31st, parent/guardian can inquire with CICS Enrollment on request for consideration allowing the student to be tested.
- Must meet all Chicago International Charter School (CICS) application requirements including proof of Chicago residency.
- Must satisfactorily complete the early admission process including assessment testing (testing varies by campus).
- The deadline for Kindergarten Early Admission consideration is **October 1st**.

**Early Admission Process:**

- Families interested in the CICS Kindergarten Early Admission at a CICS elementary campus should apply online at www.chicagointl.org
- Applicants are encouraged to apply for Kindergarten for the following school year if no seat is available by **October 1**.
- Students remaining on the waitlist after the October 1st deadline will no longer be considered for the current school year due to limited seat availability. Families will be encouraged to apply for Kindergarten in the following school year.
- Applications for Kindergarten Early Admission consideration opens annually in early October.
- For lottery consideration, the parent/guardian must submit an application by 5pm the last Friday of February.

- Applications received after the deadline are added to the waitlist in the order it is received (if applicable).
- The virtual lottery is held on the second Wednesday of March.
- If a seat is available, a communication is sent to the Parent/Guardian via email on a pending pre-offer for their student.
- A school representative will reach out to the Parent/Guardian to schedule the assessment for their student.
- If no response is received after three (3) documented outreach attempts, the application will be withdrawn.
- The Parent/Guardian is to be present with their student at their scheduled assessment.
- Once the assessment is complete, the CICS school will forward the results to the CICS Enrollment Department.
- The Parent/Guardian will receive a notification on their student's assessment results via email within five (5) business days from the assessment test.
- If the student does not meet the Kindergarten readiness requirements, the decision is considered final. However, the parent/guardian may request a meeting to review the student's assessment results.
- Decisions made during the assessment meeting are considered final.
- Families may not submit another Early Kindergarten application to apply to another CICS school.
- If selected, the parent/guardian receives an offer of admission and may accept or decline the offer. If accepting, the parent/guardian can begin the registration process, including submitting the required student documents.
- Families who miss the registration deadline or do not respond to the outreach by the CICS school or CICS Network office will have their student's seat withdrawn.
- A request for school transfer within the CICS network is contingent on seat availability at desired CICS campus by October 1st.
- Early Admission is an established process through Chicago International Charter School (CICS) only and not affiliated with Chicago Public Schools (CPS); therefore, acceptance at a CICS campus does not guarantee applying at a CPS school. Parents are encouraged to contact CPS directly before considering applying to CPS.

**Questions?**

- If you have any questions on the CICS Kindergarten Early Admission, contact the CICS Enrollment Department at apply@chicagointl.org.