

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**  
**Immersion Programs Lottery Process**  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/)

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

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) offers elementary foreign language immersion programs at seven sites in the county: three Spanish, two French, and two Chinese immersion programs. 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. For more specifics, 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?**

Any Montgomery County resident scheduled to enter Kindergarten in the following school year may participate in the immersion lottery. Some immersion programs are based on geographic location. Students with a sibling currently in Grade K-4 of the immersion program will be given priority on a space-available basis. Some programs as noted give priority to local school students. For specific information, visit the special programs website, call the school coordinator, or call DCCAPS at 301-592-2040.

**3. Are siblings of students currently in the immersion program in Grade K-4 guaranteed a seat in that program?**

Siblings of students currently in the immersion program in Grade K-4 are given priority 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. Can students entering Grades 1-5 participate in the lottery?**

If requests exceed available program capacity for grade 1, a lottery will be held. Admission for grades 2-5 is determined by both language proficiency and available space. The language proficiency assessment is administered after the invitation to the program has been made.

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

Parents must complete 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 in late January in all MCPS elementary schools, DCCAPS, and the website above. The deadline for submitting the form is April 1, 2009. Forms must be returned to the DCCAPS office at 11721 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902.

**6. 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 beginning this fall 2008. To learn more about the open house/information meeting schedules, call the school directly.

**7. Is transportation to these programs provided?**

MCPS provides transportation from central stops for immersion students from the areas served by the program. 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.

**8. How many seats are available per program? When will we be notified of lottery results?**

Twenty-five or fifty seats are available in the lottery for students entering Kindergarten depending on the program. 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 older siblings currently enrolled in an immersion program. All other assignments are made by a random lottery process. 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 waitlist, the student must be enrolled in MCPS. The lottery is run in May, and the wait list is valid through the following January. All students who participate in the lottery process will receive notification in May 2009.