

# The School District of Philadelphia

## Office of Early Childhood

Kindergarten and Beginners to 1st Grade

### All Kindergarten Programs are Full Day

**Kindergarten Hours:** State code regulations that cover the operation of kindergarten states that full day kindergarten must provide at least five (5) hours of instruction each day, 900 hours, 180 days per year. If this requirement is not met by every kindergarten, the District may lose its subsidies.

#### Age

- For kindergarten, children must reach their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday on or before September 1.
- For 1<sup>st</sup> grade, children must reach the compulsory school age of six on or before September 1.
- Written proof of age must be submitted with application.
- Acceptable proofs of age (one of the following):
  - Official birth certificate; baptismal certificate; a passport of a foreign born student, Other documentary evidence (adoption papers, court placement records, hospital records, institutional home records, social service agency records or alien number, I-94 number, and an up-to-date immunization records .
- Any 6-year-old child, who did not attend kindergarten, may attend kindergarten instead of 1<sup>st</sup> grade, at the written request of the parent(s).

#### Identification

- Current Drivers License/ Non-Drivers license.
- Valid Federal, State or Municipal employment photo identification.
- Passport

#### Residency

- The child must be registered in the neighborhood school even if the child will not attend the neighborhood school due to special needs, disability, transfer, or extenuating circumstances.
- The child must live in the same neighborhood as the school where they apply.
- Written proof of residency must accompany the application.
- Acceptable proof of residency (one of the following):
  - Current utility bill (PECO, PGW, water), current voter's registration, original rental agreement/ leases (Must be typed, signed by all parties and notarized), deed, residency affidavit signed by homeowner/tenant or landlord and notarized, foster care/childcare and DHS letters are also acceptable for registration when student is in the care of a foster/child care agency, shelter placement or residency letters are also acceptable for homeless students.

As a result of Federal Law – Plyer v. Doe [457 US 202 (1982)] – schools may not deny admission to a student on the basis of undocumented status. This law applies to non-US citizens.