

Thank you for your interest in Young Fives. **The District will once again offer Young Fives during the 2020-21 school year!!!** **More Information coming soon!**

Please note that many details are being finalized through the Curriculum and Instruction Reconfiguration Committee. Additional information about Young Fives offerings, locations, and the lottery will be made available before the January 9, 2020, Young Fives/Kindergarten Information Night that will take place at your 2020-21 neighborhood school at 6:30 p.m.

The District has compiled responses to frequently asked questions regarding the Young Fives program. The purpose of this document is to support families with making decisions about Young Fives and provide clarity about the program. This document will be updated and have the most current information regarding Young Fives program. You may also contact your building principal or Keith Howell at howellk@gpschools.org for additional information.

What is Young Fives? Is there a cost?

*The Young Fives program offers an alternative for children whose parents feel that they are not yet ready for a traditional kindergarten experience. **The program is free** for younger five-year-old children who live in the Grosse Pointe Public School System attendance area. Eligibility is determined by birth date -- children must turn five between March 1 and December 1, 2019. Students who complete the Young Fives program would be expected to return to their home school the following year. The natural progression from the Young Fives program would be to Kindergarten.*

What schools offer Young Fives?

The District will provide location information regarding Young Fives offerings prior to January 9.

How are students assigned to Young Fives?

The District will conduct a lottery, based on parental preference regarding placement in the Young Fives program. Additional information regarding the lottery will be provided prior to January 9.

What are the steps to enroll into the Young Fives program?

The District will provide information regarding Young Fives enrollment process and lottery prior to January 9. The lottery will take place in April.

What is the Transition Event? (April date will be provided prior to January 9)

The Transition Event is an exciting opportunity for your child to visit their new school and meet with teachers. The event will include a pre-kindergarten assessment. We will take a look at the following:

- *Identification of Shapes*
- *Colors*
- *Letters - Uppercase and Lowercase*
- *Letter Sounds*
- *Numbers*
- *Counting*
- *And Ability to Write Their Name*

We do **not** expect young fives or kindergarten students to be able to demonstrate **all** of the skills mentioned. However this transition activity provides a **snapshot** of where we can meet your child's learning needs, as well as the opportunity for you to become more familiar with the school and staff.

Each child that attends this event will also receive a backpack with goodies to support summer learning. Families will receive their Transition Event appointment after the lottery.

What is the class size for each site?

Typically, class size ranges from 18-24 students.

Is my child guaranteed a spot in the program if we complete the enrollment process by before the lottery?

We are unable to guarantee anything until we have a firm understanding of enrollment numbers. Since the conception of the Young Fives program, all families that completed the enrollment process by the required date were offered a spot in the program. With that said, some parents declined because it was not their preferred location after the lottery was completed. The District wants to continue to offer this great opportunity to anyone interested.

My child just misses the cut off date. Can the district make an exception and let them in to the Young Fives program if I sign a waiver?

Unfortunately, no. In Michigan, children must be five years of age on or before September 1st to register for Young Fives or Kindergarten. Parents of children who turn five years of age on or before December 1, may still register their child for Young 5/Kindergarten next year if they notify the district in writing using the entry waiver form that is provided in the enrollment office.

We are unable to make exceptions with respect to the cut off dates because they are set by the Michigan Department of Education and not by Grosse Pointe Public Schools. The section of the Revised School Code that addresses this issue is contained in the Michigan Compiled Laws under MCL 380.1147.

While we are unable to accommodate your request to have your child enter Young Fives and we will be excited to serve your child in our kindergarten program during the 2021-22 school year.

If you would like outstanding programming for your child during the 2020-21 school year in our tuition based preschool program you can contact the Grosse Pointe Public School System's tuition-based Child Development and Preschool program at 313-432-3809 or visit the [preschool website](#) for more information.

Will the district consider opening a section at my home school?

The district will provide information regarding Young Fives offerings prior to January 9.

The district continues to monitor enrollment numbers and **decides by May 1** if any additional sections will be needed within the district.

What happens if enrollment numbers requires opening an additional section? Will that change my lottery preference status?

If enrollment numbers indicate the need to add an additional section, the District will send communication to families regarding steps to re-submitting the lottery preference based on schools that will be hosting Young Fives. The District understands that you would have already

submitted this information once; however, we will need to gather this information from you again with all of the current available choices due to adding another classroom.

What does Young Fives look like?

The professional staff believes that each student is unique. Our staff is dedicated to providing appropriate and stimulating experiences and activities from which your child can learn, grow, and develop a wholesome attitude toward learning. The Young Fives program will follow the kindergarten curriculum while taking the necessary time to ensure students understand concepts at a developmentally appropriate pace. With that being said, we anticipate that our Young Fives program will provide our youngest learners an amazing experience that will help them grow academically, socially, and emotionally in order to be prepared for Kindergarten.

This program will run Monday through Friday during regular school hours. The full-day program includes age and ability-appropriate instruction in all common core subject areas. The day is a wonderful combination of large and small group activities, with opportunities for individual and buddy work. Music, movement, and art activities are woven throughout the curriculum and daily routine. The Young Fives classrooms will also participate in physical education, library, music, and art classes each week. Recess is part of our daily routine to foster gross motor development. We want all our Young Fives to be happy and enthusiastic to learn, so providing a safe and fun learning environment is critical.

What happens after Young Fives?

The District will send communication to Young Fives families in February to provide a process for transitioning to Kindergarten. Information consists of the following:

- *Regardless of which building a student is assigned to for their Young Fives experience, they are expected to attend their neighborhood school for their traditional kindergarten experience in 2021-22.*
- *If your home school is the same as your child's Young Fives school then you need to take no further action regarding enrolling your child for the 2020-21 school year.*
- *If your home school is different than your child's location for Young Fives then the district will automatically transfer your child's records and information to that home school. You do not need to take any formal action.*
- *Typically, students in Young Fives would attend kindergarten for the next school year. If a student meets the kindergarten social, emotional, and academic expectations at the conclusion of the Young Fives program, then parents will work with their teacher and building principal regarding first grade placement for the following year. These decisions will be made on an individualized basis. Please contact your Young Fives teacher if you have questions.*

My question isn't answered in this FAQ document?

Not a problem, please contact Keith Howell at 313-432-3044 or email your questions to him at howellk@gpschools.org. He is happy to answer your questions and add it to this FAQ document.